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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 294 | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Fitial-Inos transition team begins work. **PAGE 3**

US House debates Kilili's Echo Company resolution. **PAGE 7**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Is your holiday spending going to increase, remain the same, or decrease this year compared to last year's?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of December 8, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Day of Infamy

Dozens of survivors of Pearl Harbor on Monday solemnly remembered those who died in the Japanese aerial assault 68 years ago.

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NaNoWriMo

Writers in Saipan and Guam took the challenge to write novels in November and officially wrote 999,226 words of fiction!

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Municipal council-elects oppose filling vacant TCGCC post

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three newly elected members of the 13th Tinian Municipal Council are opposing a plan to fill a vacant position at the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, citing the lack of budget and projected low revenue in the years ahead.

Saipan Tribune learned that Patrick Manglona, Estevan Cabrera, and Joseph Cruz had written current Municipal Council chair Antonio Borja on Monday, citing their opposition to the plan to fill the vacant fifth, and final, position on the commission.

"As you know, our economic situation presently is at its worst and we haven't seen a sign that it will get better in the near future.

See MUNICIPAL on Page 4

Lawmakers swap $32,881 in Q4

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine lawmakers asked eight of their colleagues to transfer to their office account a total of $32,881 from July to September to cover a shortfall in their quarterly discretionary fund allotments, documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show.

Lawmakers and government agencies are required by law to report reprogramming of funds every quarter.

The amount of each transfer of discretionary fund is from $200 to $6,300, based on the fourth

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

HOLIDAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two children play at a park in Susupe while their parents watch nearby. Many families on Saipan spent their CNMI Constitution Day holiday yesterday by going to parks and beaches. The CNMI government adopted its own constitution in 1977, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978. The Covenant was fully implemented on Nov. 3, 1986, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 5564, which conferred United States citizenship on legally qualified CNMI residents.

NMC vacancies: 1 dean, 5 dep't chairs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

- 2 of 3 deans on leave
- 5 of 6 dep't chairs in acting capacities

The Northern Marianas College is now operating with just one individual in permanent capacity among the college's key departments and programs.

Of the three college deans, two are presently on vacation until end of the month, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, dean of Academic Programs,

See NMC on Page 4

Half of water CUC pumps out is being stolen or lost

Eight violators recommended for legal action

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For every 10 gallons of water the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. pumps out, only four to five gallons are being billed; the rest are deemed a "loss" due to a variety of factors.

Bruce Megarr, the deputy director for CUC's water and wastewater division, disclosed Monday that the agency has been losing a significant volume of its water production for many years.

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RELATED NEWS

$4.4M stimulus funds OK'd for CUC. **PAGE 5**

Local

BALLOT COUNTING
Election Commission board chair Frances Sablan, second from left, and other board members examine the absentee ballots that were counted Monday, as CEC executive director Robert Guerrero, leftmost, looks on at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ex-cashier arrested for alleged embezzlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has imposed a $50,000 cash bail on a former cashier/underwriter of an insurance firm who allegedly embezzled over $13,000 from the company.

During Monday's hearing, Govendo ordered Rochelle Mendiola Camacho to appear in court on Dec. 14 for a preliminary hearing.

Police served an arrest warrant on the 25-year-old Camacho in Chalan Kanoa on Friday.

Camacho is facing charges of theft by unlawful taking or disposition of funds received; forgery; possession of forged writing or forgery device; fraudulent destruction, removal or concealment of recordable instruments; misuse of credit cards; and identity theft.

Juan Santos, an investigator for the White Collar Crimes/Public Corruption Task Force, stated in a report that an independent audit showed that Camacho embezzled at least $13,297.63 from Marianas Insurance Co. Inc. in 2009.

Santos said the amount could rise as another audit has yet to be completed.

Santos said it was the MICO general manager who reported the alleged embezzlement to the Department of Public Safety on Oct. 16 after the company's accountant uncovered Camacho's alleged anomaly.

The investigator said the accountant discovered the crime when one of their clients came to the office to pick up an auto insurance card that day.

The accountant told the client that she could not get the auto insurance card until a full payment is made and that she still owes $80.

Santos said the client was surprised because she had already paid the amount. The client then showed an original receipt to indicate that payment was already made.

That same day, Camacho admitted taking the $80, Santos said.

Following the incident, the MICO general manager asked for an independent audit.

Santos said the audit showed that many receipts were altered, cash payments received were under-reported, check payments had no receipts, and credit card holders' signatures were forged.

Ex-convict arrested for allegedly breaking into ex-GF's apartment

An ex-convict was arrested over the weekend for allegedly breaking into the apartment of a former girlfriend and assaulting her.

Phillip Julian Defang, 30, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During Monday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo set a $1,250 cash bail for Defang's temporary release.

In his report, Detective Norman Rasiang stated the Department of Public Safety received on Saturday night a call about a disturbance at an apartment in Finasisu.

Rasiang said the victim alleged that at 11:50pm Defang came to her apartment but she refused to open the door. Defang left but returned 10 minutes later and caused the door's lock to break, allowing him to enter the apartment. He allegedly pushed the victim.

The victim said she dated Defang for almost two months but moved out of his place in August 2009 because he allegedly pointed a knife at her and threatened to kill her.

Last August, Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a 15-day prison term on Defang for damaging three vehicles parked in front of a warehouse in Gualo Rai.

Wiseman sentenced Defang to three years in prison, all suspended except for 15 days, for one count of criminal mischief. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DoF: Employee fringe benefits need to be reported by Dec. 31

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack gave department and activity heads of Executive Branch offices until Dec. 31 to report employee compensation or fringe benefits.

"Fringe benefit information is supplemental to employees' payroll records," Schrack said in a Dec. 3 memorandum to Executive Branch department and activity heads.

Employee compensation or fringe benefits must be documented for the preparation of information returns, specifically the Annual Wage and Tax Statement and Form W2-CM, he said.

Each government department and activity unit that uses the services of the Division of Finance and Accounting must provide DFA with certain information that pertains to employee compensation such as housing benefit or housing cash allowance, and/or the use of government vehicle.

DFA is one of the units under the Department of Finance.

Schrack said each department and activity head with expenditure authority is responsible to ensure all fringe benefits are reported to the Division of Finance and Accounting.

Attached in the Finance secretary's memo is a form to list fringe benefit information, for department heads' convenience. The form must be submitted to the Division of Finance and Accounting no later than Dec. 31, 2009.

Department and activity heads are also urged to visit the Internal Revenue Service website, www.irs.gov, for a comprehensive reference guide on tax withholding issues, as well as IRS Publication 963, Federal-State Reference Guide.

Fitial-Inos transition team begins work

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Re-elected Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said it is still too early to tell whether all current Cabinet members will retain their jobs when his second term begins, adding that this may depend on the results of reviews that will be made by his Transition Committee.

"The Transition Committee officially started work when the election results were certified," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune.*

He appointed Covenant Party chair Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho chairman of the Transition Committee, which is poised to perform a top-to-bottom review of all government operations.

The inauguration will be held on Jan. 11, 2010, but the Fitial administration has yet to name a place for the ceremony as of yesterday.

When Fitial was first elected into office in 2005, his then Office of the Governor-Elect received $55,000 for its operations during the transition period.

The CNMI government provided the funds in accordance with the Executive Transition Act.

In addition to the transition committee funding, the Office of the Governor-Elect at that time also budgeted $200,000 for the inauguration ceremonies.

Camacho, in a phone interview yesterday, said the chair of the Inauguration Committee has yet to be named. He said there's no amount yet budgeted for the ceremony.

"We don't expect to spend much money given the financial conditions," he said.

He said they have started "brainstorming" on the work that the committee needs to complete before inauguration, but the persons who will head the review of government agencies have yet to be named.

Fitial, who will serve a five-year term, also named former Public Safety Commissioner Clyde Norita vice chair of the Transition Committee.

Norita was the campaign manager for the former Committee to Elect Juan "Pan" Guerrero and House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho who ran as independent candidates for governor and lieutenant governor. After the Guerrero-Camacho team finished third in a four-way race, Camacho, along with his brother Norita and other committee members

The committee will be meeting today, said Camacho.

In an earlier statement, the Fitial administration said the transition team will be "performing a top to bottom review of all government operations in an effort to ensure that government resources are being spent wisely and policies are being carried out that provide a real and true benefit to every citizen."

The Covenant Party headquarters on Middle Road is now the office of the Transition Committee.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos sealed their victory over Republicans Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) when the counting of absentee ballots wrapped up on Monday.

The incumbents won by 370 votes over the Republicans, 6,610-6,240.

Fitial, 64, is the first CNMI governor to be re-elected since 2003. He is also the first to win in a gubernatorial runoff election in CNMI history.

He is also the first—and probably the only governor—to serve a five-year term because of a recently ratified legislative initiative requiring general elections to be held on even-numbered years. The governors after him will go back to serving four-year terms.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Re-elected Gov. Benigno R. Fitial speaks as Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos listens during a victory speech at the Covenant Party headquarters in Gualo Rai, celebrating the certification of the Fitial-Inos team as the winner in the 2009 runoff election.

Man tries to stab relative with spoon

A 25-year-old man allegedly tried to stab his relative with a spoon because he was hungry Friday afternoon.

Jack Petrus was arrested on Sunday for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

During Monday's hearing, Govendo imposed a $5,250 cash bail for Petrus and set the preliminary hearing for Dec. 16.

Detective Norman Rasiang stated in his report that a call was made to 911 Friday afternoon about a disturbance at Koblerville Housing.

Rasiang said investigation showed that Petrus had confronted the victim, saying he was hungry. Petrus then tried to stab the victim with a spoon. Another relative took Petrus out of the house. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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UOG, Navy donate endangered plants to Tinian

The Guam Navy has donated more than 200 plants of the endangered cycad to the Tinian Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The plants were propagated and grown in the Navy-funded Tinian plant nursery managed by the University of Guam.

Known in the Chamorro language as *fadang*, this tree is an important cultural and biological resource on Guam, and belongs to an ancient group of plants called cycads by botanists. Guam's population of the tree has been decimated in the past few years due to two alien insect invasions.

"Forest surveys less than 10 years ago indicated *fadang* was the most abundant tree in Guam's forests," said Anne Brooke, Navy Natural Resources Program Manager for the Marianas region. "But the plant mortality after the invasions of these insects was so rapid and widespread that the International Union for Conservation of Nature listed Guam's *fadang* as an endangered species in 2006."

The Navy recently partnered with the University of Guam to establish a large collection of Guam cycad plants in the limestone forests of Tinian. This remote safe haven for the Guam plants is designed to safeguard the species in case all of the plants on Guam are killed in coming years. The donated cycad plants were grown in combination with the plants that were used to establish the Navy collection.

The CNMI government intends to plant most of the donated plants in the recently established wildlife refuge, according to Sam Palacios. Palacios is Assistant Director of Tinian DLNR and was responsible for enabling the use of DLNR facilities for the nursery phase of the Navy project.

"This plan is ideal," said UOG professor Thomas Marler. "If they are successful, Tinian will have two forested areas with established *fadang* populations and this will increase the conservation efforts." Marler was the manager of the Tinian project. ***(University of Guam)***

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

quarter data from the Office of Management and Budget.

Other lawmakers received fund transfers from their colleagues more than once between July and September. One lawmaker, for example, received a total of $21,000 in fund transfers.

The quarterly discretionary fund allotment is separate from each lawmaker's monthly salary and from the committee chairmanship budget.

Between July and September, each lawmaker received salaries of $22,367 or $7,455.66 a month, the same level as the previous quarter but much lower than the April to June level of $26,217.

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) received a total of $21,000 in discretionary fund transfers from Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

Torres made three separate transfers to Hofschneider's account between July and September—the first two were for $6,300 each, while the third one was for $2,100, for a total of $14,700.

Torres, in a phone interview, said he transferred money to Hofschneider because they share a common office employee.

"We agreed to share the expenses for the employee's salaries so I transferred money to his account every month. That employee is under his account. There's no hanky panky in there; it's all legal. It's common for lawmakers to share employees to save costs," Torres said.

Torres also transferred $500 to the account of Rep. Justo Quitugua.

"I think he was overdraft that time," he said.

The House speaker did not return calls for comment. He transferred $6,400 to Hofschneider's account on two separate occasions. Earlier, Palacios said he and Hofschneider share a common office employee and they split the costs for salaries.

Palacios, however, also received $800 from the account of Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan).

Yumul also transferred $500 to the account of Quitugua.

Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan) transferred a total of $2,800 to two of his colleagues: $1,000 to Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan), and $1,800 to Quitugua.

Salas, in a phone interview, said he transferred the money to Quitugua when the latter asked for additional funding for community projects.

"The money was for building bus stops in As Teo, which is also part of my precinct. I wanted to help him finish the project," Salas said.

He added that Apatang also needed help funding his community projects so he transferred money to Apatang's account as well.

Salas said he had to turn down other requests for fund transfers because he also needed money for his own projects and programs.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) transferred $375 to Rep. Joe Reyes' (R-Saipan) account. He also transferred $1,000 to the account of Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (Cov-Saipan).

Benavente also received $3,000 from the account of Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Benavente, in a text message, said he shares office employees with both Reyes and Torres.

"Members sometimes share accounts for staff," he said.

Torres also transferred $278 to Reyes' account. Reyes also received $200 from the account of Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), and another $278 from the account of Torres.

Torres also transferred $500 to the account of Sen. Frica Pangelinan (D-Saipan).

Sen. Henry San Nicolas transferred $1,550 to the account of Rep. Edwin Aldan.

Top recipients

Hofschneider topped the list of fund transfer recipients with a total of $21,100, followed by Benavente with $3,000.

Quitugua came in third with $2,800, while Aldan ranked fourth with $1,550.

Reyes ranked fifth with $1,131. Apatang and Babauta each received a total of $1,000.

Ranked seventh and eighth were House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Sen. Frica Pangelinan with $800 and $500, respectively.

NMC

From Page 1

and Tee Abraham, dean of Community Programs and Services, are both on leave until the end of this month.

Only Leo Pangelinan, the acting dean of Student Services, is onboard. He was named to the post after the departure of Janice Tenorio.

Highly placed sources at the college disclosed that Barbara Merfalen was named the acting dean for Academic Programs; no one has been named to take charge of Community Programs and Services.

Merfalen, who is also the acting department chair for the School of Education, is now serving two positions in the absence of Deleon Guerrero.

This comes as NMC classes head into their final week next week.

Acting capacities

Of the six department chairpersons, only one is serving in a permanent capacity: Frank Sobolewski, the chairperson of the Department of Social Sciences and Fine Arts. The five others are in acting capacities and have been doing so for several months now.

Sobolewski is also the acting chair for the Department of Languages and Humanities, the position previously held by Mark Haag, whose contract was not renewed this year.

The other individuals in acting capacities include Barbara Merfalen for the School of Education, and dean Deleon Guerrero for the Department of Math and Sciences, a post previously held by Glenn Keaton. Deleon Guerrero is also the acting chair for the Department of Business, the position previously held by Eric Plinske. Keaton was among those whose contracts were not renewed, while Plinske retired.

Because Deleon Guerrero is on leave, Eric Johnson is currently the acting chair.

Faculty worried

NMC Faculty Senate president Larry Lee confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that many faculty members are now worried about the current staffing at the college, especially for key positions and department chairs, which could affect the quality of education for students.

"Many faculty members are concerned and worried…and they have brought to my attention these issues. The faculty will discuss these in our meeting Thursday this week," he said.

Lee refused to elaborate and comment on other issues about the college.

The latest to join the throng of key personnel who are leaving the college is long-time instructor Sam McPhetres, whose contract was also not renewed. He has served the college for more than 20 years.

Employees and students interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday believe that having too many officers in acting capacities affects the quality of service as people may become overworked and some may not be able to fully concentrate on their tasks.

HALF

From Page 1

"The situation here is for every 10 gallons we're pumping, we're billing four to five gallons. Half of the production is considered lost," he said, adding that Guam faces a similar problem with its system.

Megarr said the "unbilled usage" is among the major reasons why CUC is losing a lot of money, followed by water leaks.

As of Monday, Megarr confirmed that eight big accounts have been found stealing water from CUC. The agency has referred the matter to the Attorney General's Office for legal action. Megarr is optimistic that action will be taken against the "culprits."

He vowed to continue to act aggressively to find those who purposely use "unbilled water."

"There are hardworking and honest people on island who pay their bills…and we're making sure that we're doing our best to protect and support these people," Megarr said.

He said they uncovered these large losses after comparing the water production numbers with the water billed and collected by the agency. Calculations showed that only 40 to 50 percent of the water produced are being accounted for.

Old pipes

The existence of old and dilapidated water pipes contributes to the problem.

Megarr pointed out that some portions of the water distribution system dates back to the 1930s and 1940s when the CNMI was under Japanese stewardship. The condition and location of these pipes are hard to pin down due to the lack of documentation.

Water audit

Megarr told *Saipan Tribune* that the development of a "water audit" showing water volumes from the well to the end-user is a key challenge.

"The key is completing this audit of functional meters at customer's homes. We don't know exactly what we are losing until we can accurately gauge what we are selling," Megarr said.

"It's our goal that everyone be metered by volume by the end of the year…because the stipulated order mandates that we need to bill 100 percent of our customers by volume by mid-March 2010," he said.

This effort complements the full pressurization of the water distribution system, providing all of CUC customers 24-hour a day water, he added.

If people are being billed for what they use as opposed to a flat rate or fixed consumption, they are apt to conserve water, which benefits everyone.

Saipan Tribune learned that a vast majority of meters installed in 2004 and 2005 were found to have production flaws that resulted in failed displays. The manufacturer is replacing these and CUC is now in the process of putting these new meters into service.

During the week of Nov. 16, CUC replaced 288 meters.

He said that prior to November 2008, only those who were available were assigned to the replacement of water meters.

"Now, we have a dedicated team tasked to do the job responsibly and orderly," Megarr said.

Climate impact

CUC records show that there are 10,000 water customers on island. CUC has 146 wells, 16 storage tanks and reservoirs, and 18 booster stations.

It has 212 miles of water main lines that are 2 inches in diameter or larger and 196 miles of water pipes that are smaller than 2 inches. It also has 3,400 valves and 655 fire hydrants as well as 17 pressure reducing valves.

Megarr disclosed that due to the island's tropical-marine climate, CUC operation requires a regimented preventive maintenance program that is well-led, properly trained and equipped with the necessary gear.

In the U.S. mainland, Megarr said the same quality of pipes could last from 75 to 100 years.

"Here, if not maintained and operated properly, these will last only 6 to 7 years and we're seeing this picture now," he said, adding that a major focus now is finding materials in the system that are susceptible to failure, assessing its condition and then taking action to maintain or replace.

"We're using a variety of methods, including crawling 'sewer cameras' to video the condition of our pipes in our sewer system," Megarr said.

He said the governor's Water Task Force has been instrumental in identifying and fixing leaks in the southeast portion of the island.

Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, and San Antonio have gone from two to three hours of water service per day to a full 24-hour per day service.

"Our job is to ensure we maintain that impressive accomplishment," Megarr said.

MUNICIPAL

From Page 1

For that reason, we argue that you hold any confirmation," the three told Borja in a joint statement issued Monday.

Saipan Tribune learned that a casino gaming commissioner is budgeted from $50,000 to $75,000 per annum.

The commissioners' salaries are sourced from revenues collected from the casino on island. Since 1998, Tinian Dynasty Casino & Hotel has been the sole casino operator on Tinian.

The three newly elected Municipal Council members said they want the new council administration to be given the opportunity to evaluate the financial condition of the municipal government before any appointment is made to the commission.

They believe that appointing a new commissioner is unnecessary as the present composition already constitutes a quorum and is capable of handling commission matters.

They said it is imperative to first address critical issues such as the 14-percent retroactive pay, the municipal scholarship, medical referral program, and the more than a million dollar in arrears to the NMI Retirement Fund.

The three urged Borja and members of the current Municipal Council to refrain from going ahead with the plan to hire a commissioner.

Borja was unavailable yesterday for comments due to the Constitution Day holiday.

Pursuant to law that created the TCGCC, the five members that make up the commission are appointed by the mayor and serve a term of six years.

Each commissioner is limited to serve only one term at the commission and is entitled to receive compensation of not more than $75,000 annually.

CNMI and Guam delegates congratulate Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo separately congratulated Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday for winning the gubernatorial elections.

Sablan (D-MP), in a letter to Fitial, said, "It has been a long campaign, but a majority of Commonwealth voters has now signified their confidence in your continued leadership."

"I look forward to continuing to work with you and Lt. Governor Inos for the good of the Northern Mariana Islands. There are many challenges our islands face. I hope that you will consider the congressional office your partner in meeting those challenges," Sablan said.

Bordallo (D-GU), in a statement, said Fitial's "re-election will maintain the continuity in leadership during this critical time for the CNMI."

"I look forward to working with Governor Fitial further on issues important to the economic well-being of our region, and I congratulate him on his election victory," she said.

The Commonwealth Election Commission certified the results of the elections shortly after the manual counting of absentee ballots on Monday.

Fitial and Inos sealed their victory over Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, 6,610–6,240.

Bordallo

It was one of the longest elections in CNMI history.

During the Nov. 7 general elections, none of the four gubernatorial candidates received at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast and counted.

As a result, the top two vote getters—Hofschneider and Fitial—had to face off in the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 23.

Hofschneider beat Fitial by eight votes—the closest gubernatorial race in CNMI history—in the general elections. Businessman Juan "Pan" Guerrero finished third, while former senator Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero finished last in the four-way race.

In the runoff elections, Fitial beat Hofschneider by 501 votes.

But they had to wait for Dec. 7 for the counting of absentee ballots, which narrowed Fitial's lead to 370.

Sablan

Fitial, 64, is the second governor to be re-elected in CNMI history, next only to former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

He is also the first—and perhaps the only—CNMI governor who will serve a five-year term instead of the regular four years as a result of a newly ratified legislative initiative that requires the holding of general elections on even-numbered years.

Priorities

Fitial, in an interview, said the economy will remain among his priorities, along with ensuring the continuity of basic services such as health, education and safety.

He said he will continue to convince the federal government that the control of labor is better left with the local government.

"I will continue to make them understand that I have no qualms about them protecting our borders because we don't have the resources to do that, but I will continue to ask the federal government to allow us to do what we do best—controlling our labor," he said.

$4.4M stimulus funds OK'd for CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Energy has approved a total of $4.4 million stimulus money for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. this fiscal year.

The competitive grant was awarded to the utilities firm after meeting the criteria and requirements set by the federal agency. The grant award is good until 2012.

Saipan Tribune learned that the $4.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding will be used for three CUC projects on Saipan.

A big bulk, amounting to $3.5 million, will be used to retrofit the turbo charger of engines 5 to 8 at Saipan's power plants. The federal agency also allocated $600,000 for the lube oil centrifuge project, while $300,000 will be used to reclaim used oil.

Fred Camacho, the CNMI's ARRA public information officer for information technology and communications manager, confirmed the approval of the CUC funding. He said CUC expects to get the money "very soon."

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC executive director Tony Muña has appointed Chris Fryling project manager for all three projects.

Based on the ARRA state energy program grant application submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, CUC has been operating the Mitsubishi-MAN 40-54A and 52/55B engines at its main power plant since 1986. The exhaust gas turbocharger models on these engines have been around for over 40 years and are now considered inefficient and obsolete.

Exhaust gas turbochargers, according to the document, influence the performance of diesel engines. To deliver optimum performance, engines require high efficiency state-of-the-art turbocharging. Retrofitting the existing engines with the latest turbocharger technology, CUC said, is an effective method of extending engine useful life while also improving performance, economics, and environmental impact.

Once the turbochargers in engines 5, 6, 7, and 8 are replaced, CUC projects to save 352,000 gallons of diesel fuel every year, or $704,000 per annum based on $2 per gallon cost.

Once the lube oil centrifuge machines are upgraded, CUC expects total energy and lube oil savings of $141,120 yearly.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC has been operating its lubricating oil centrifuges at its Lower Base power plant since 1986 and each engine is fitted with a centrifuge machine originally supplied by Mitsubishi.

The centrifuge machines are used primarily for purifying engine-lubricating oil and lube oil changes are not frequent.

A substantial savings is also projected once used oil is removed from the power plants.

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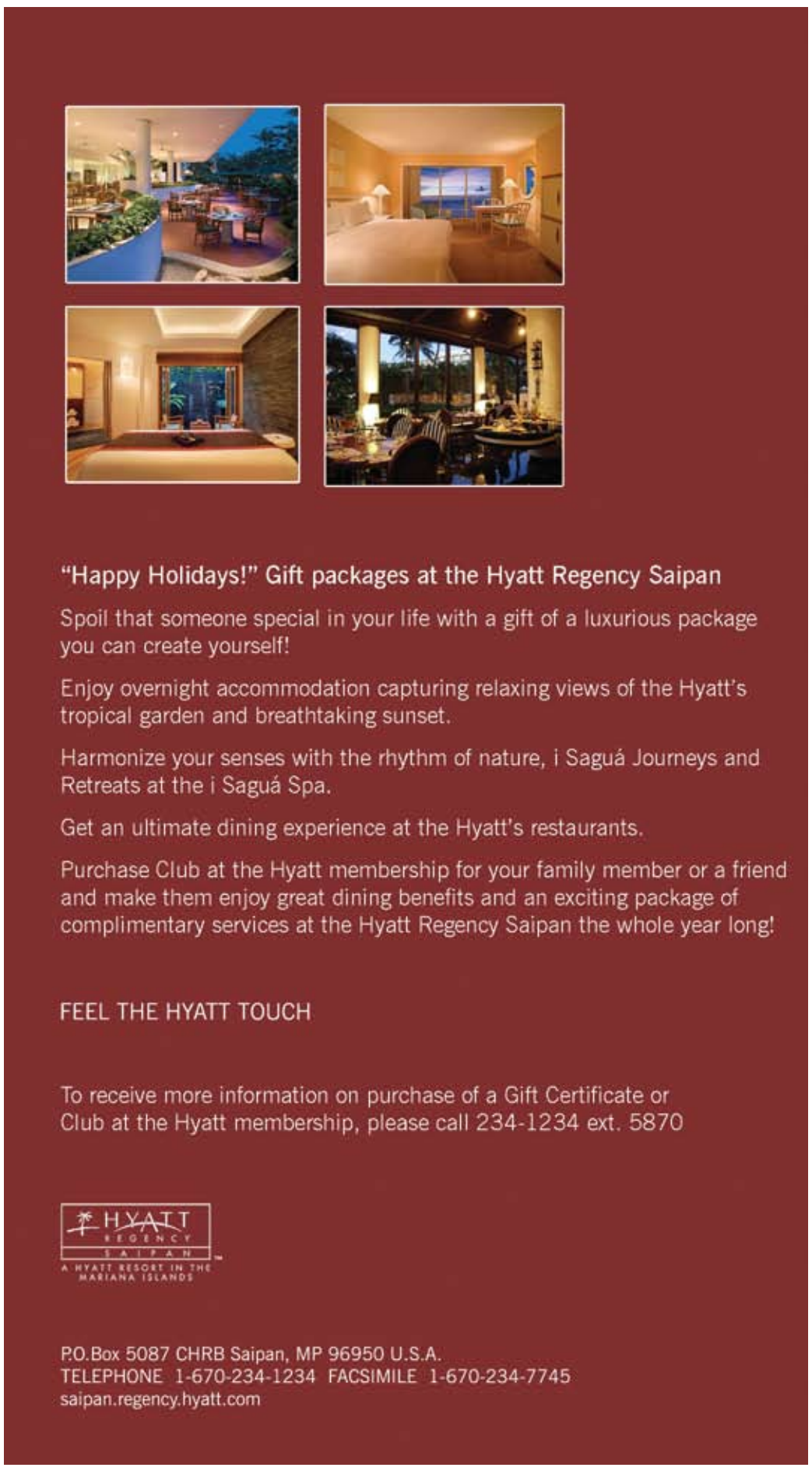
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Two investors allegedly abandon leased lot, commercial building

A landowner is suing two investors for allegedly abandoning her leased lot and a commercial building on Saipan.

Maria V. Pangelinan sued Wan Tin Yam, Hong Kong citizen, and Lau Yu Kwong, a U.S. citizen residing in Guam, to terminate any interests the two have in the properties.

Pangelinan, through counsel Vicente Salas, asked the Superior Court to declare as forfeited and terminated the lease agreement for the lot and commercial building.

She demanded payment for unpaid rental from March 2009 to the date of judgment, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Salas stated in the complaint that Kwong's whereabouts are unknown and is believed to be currently residing in Hong Kong.

The suit involves a 752 square meter parcel of land and a commercial building in Susupe.

Salas said that, on Oct. 19, 1998 Pangelinan entered into a lease agreement with Lum Kit Ming Michael for 55 years commencing Nov. 1, 1988.

On Oct. 4, 1990, Michael assigned the lease in its entirety to Chen Gui Song. On Nov. 29, 1991, Song assigned the lease in its entirety to Yam and Kwong.

Salas said that Yam and Kwong failed to pay all of the required monthly rent of $2,716 since March 2009, despite Pangelinan's repeated demands.

Salas said Pangelinan also failed to locate the whereabouts of Kwong since March 2009.

This abandonment, the lawyer said, constitutes an additional violation of the lease terms and lessees are in default of the terms of the lease again.

On Sept. 28, 2009, Salas said, Yam entered into an agreement for mutual rescission and termination of lease agreement with plaintiff.

He said the agreement terminated all of Yam's title, rights, and interest in the 1988 lease agreement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES PTSA meeting

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School Would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, at 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

GCA to stage Christmas production

Grace Christian Academy will present their annual Christmas production this Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, at 6pm in the Grace Christian Academy auditorium. Admission is free and the public is invited to watch. *A Christmas Carol, Revisited* is about Tiny Tim who is all grown up and there are three ghosts who visit him: the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. ***(PR)***

Pesticide applicators' workshop

There will be a workshop for agricultural pesticide applicators from Dec. 15 to 18, 2009, at the Rota NMC campus, from 8am to 4:30pm.

All commercial agriculture farmers, ranchers, gardeners and government agencies who use and apply general use and restricted use pesticides are urged to attend.

The workshop will focus on principles of pest control, pest biology, environment, math calibration, insects, and plant diseases, PPE' mixing and loading and local and federal laws on pesticide use. Participants who attend and complete the training course and pass the examinations will be eligible to be certified to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides.

This workshop is sponsored by the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality and Northern Marianas College, National Institute of Food and Agricultural, and CREES.

For more information, call Arnold Route (NMC-CREES) at 234-5498 Ext. 1432, DEQ's Reina Camacho at 664-8522, or Alejandro Badilles (NMC CREES Rota) at 532-9513 or 8279513. ***(PR)***

Red Cross Health & Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2009:

Infant & Child CPR – Dec. 19, 2009, Saturday. 8am – 1pm

Adult CPR – Dec. 22, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm

First Aid – Dec. 29, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is $30 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is $35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is $5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

US military sets FDM training, live fire release

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire release and laser ops on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla. The schedule date and time are as follow:

Dec. 8-9, from 7am to 2:30pm, 20 EBS combat laser ops and inert/live fire release

Dec.8-9, from 1pm to 7pm, hsc-25, Laser ranging and designating

Dec. 10, from 7am to 3pm, 20 EBS combat laser ops and inert/live fire release

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. or dial CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

US House debates Kilili's Echo Company resolution

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. House of Representatives debated yesterday a resolution recognizing the 10th Anniversary of Echo Company, the Northern Mariana Islands Army Reserve unit.

House Concurrent Resolution 199 was introduced by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-GU) and has 54 co-sponsors.

Sablan made the following statement during the debate and also submitted for the record a letter of support for Echo Company and for H.Con. Res. 199 from Rep. and senator-elect Ralph Torres, who watched the proceedings from the House gallery:

"M. Speaker, our nation can never say thank you too frequently to the men and women who put their own lives at risk in military service. So I rise today as the sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 199, thanking the men and women of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment for their service, their dedication, and their sacrifice.

Sablan

"I ask that the House of Representatives adopt House Concurrent Resolution 199, honoring Company E—Echo Company as we call it in the Northern Mariana Islands—in this year, the 10th Anniversary of this distinguished band of soldiers.

"This year also marks the completion of Echo Company's second tour of duty in Iraq, where they have distinguished themselves for their fortitude and bravery, always living up the Company motto: "Go for broke!"

"I appreciate the support of the gentlelady from Guam and the other 25 members of the House Armed Services Committee, who are co-sponsors of House Concurrent Resolution 199. I also want to thank the additional 29 members of this House—from both sides of the aisle—who stepped up to say thank you to Echo Company.

"Most of all I want to thank Chairman Skelton and Ranking Member McKeon for their leadership and their commitment to our men and women in uniform and for working with me to bring this Resolution to the floor today.

"As the first person to have the honor to represent the people of the Northern Mariana Islands here in Congress, one of my duties, I believe, is to educate this House about the people I represent.

"One distinguishing trait of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands is our devotion to the United States of America. We are unique, I believe, in modern times, to have chosen as a society to become U.S. citizens. We could have become an independent nation, but we chose to be part of this nation.

"Perhaps, nothing exemplifies our commitment to our new nation more than our participation in military service. Thirty percent of the graduating class from our public high schools enlisted in military service this year.

"Of course, with this out-of-proportion participation in our military there is an out-of-proportion level of risk. Our community—our small community of some 65,000 people—has suffered the loss of 12 of our people in military service, since the commencement of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is certainly one of the highest per-capita rates of death in service of any community in our nation.

"I would now like to read the names of these 12 soldiers, airmen, seamen, and Marines from the Northern Mariana Islands who have made the ultimate sacrifice:

- Army Sergeant Yihjyh "Eddie" L. Chen
- Army Sergeant Jesse J. Castro
- Marine Lance Corporal Adam Q. Emul
- Army Specialist Leeroy A. Camacho
- Army Private First Class John D. Flores
- Army Private First Class Victor M. Fontanilla
- Army Specialist Joe G. Charfauros, Jr.
- Navy Seaman Anamarie SanNicholas Camacho
- Senior Airman Audra P.M. Winkfield

"And, finally, the three members of Echo Company who gave their lives in combat for their country:

- Army Staff Sergeant Wilgene T. Lieto,
- Army SPC Derence W. Jack, and
- Army Staff Sergeant Julian F. Manglona.

"M. Speaker, in closing I would like to say that by honoring specific individuals or a specific unit of the military, we in no way are forgetting all of the men and women from communities all around our nation who serve in the Armed Services. There are in fact many people from the Northern Mariana Islands who are not members of Echo Company in service throughout the world today. My prayers go out to them today and my thanks.

"But Echo Company is the only unit from the Northern Mariana Islands, composed solely of people from the Northern Mariana Islands. So, as the representative of these islands, and especially because this is the 10th Anniversary of Echo Company, it is my honor and responsibility to take the floor and say thank you.

"M. Speaker, I also want to recognize and am honored to have Representative and Senator-elect Ralph Torres of the Northern Mariana Legislature in the gallery today. Mr. Torres is here to join me in paying respect to our troops; and I would like to submit this letter of support for the record from Representative and Senator-elect Torres.

"Godspeed and Si Yu'us Ma'a'se to Echo Company for all that you have done for your people and the United States of America."

The House is scheduled to vote tomorrow on passage of H. Con. Res. 199. ***(PR)***

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DONATION TO QUALIFIED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The Trustees of the Garment Worker Trust Fund hereby notifies all CNMI non-profit organizations engaged in health, welfare and educational work within the CNMI that it has substantial funds available for donation. Organizations requesting a donation should submit a letter which, at a minimum, verifies their charitable status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) and describes what type of charitable activity the organization is involved in and how any funds donated to the organization would be used.

Please send all donation requests to:

Garment Worker Trust Fund
c/o: Timothy H. Bellas
P.O. Box 502845
Saipan, MP 96950

All proposals must be received no later than December 15, 2009.

/s/ GWTF Trustees: Timothy H. Bellas
Cruz Reynoso
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SHRM SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) CNMI Chapter

Presents

A New CNMI Workforce Era

Thursday, December 10, 2009
Fiesta Resort & Spa – Hibiscus Ballroom
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

AGENDA

7:30 – 8:15 am	**Registration & Continental Breakfast**
8:15 – 8:30 am	**Welcoming Remarks** **Marlene Cruz**, SHRM CNMI Chapter President
8:30 – 9:45 am	**Update from the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)** **David Gulick**, District Director – Honolulu **Stephen McHale**, Management & Program Analyst, Verification Division – Washington D.C. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services
9:45 – 10:00 am	**Break**
10:00 – 11:15 am	**Update from the U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** **Bruce Murley**, Area Port Director – Honolulu **Gerald Aevermann**, Acting Port Director – Saipan U. S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs & Border Protection
11:15 – 12:00 pm	**The New Role of the CNMI Department of Labor** **Cinta M. Kaipat**, Deputy Secretary CNMI Department of Labor
12:00 – 1:30 pm	**Lunch** **Update on the Guam Buildup and Regional Workforce Opportunities** **Maria Connelley**, Director Guam Department of Labor **The Successful Guam H1 & H2 Visa Program** **Greg Massey**, Administrator Guam Department of Labor, Alien Labor Processing & Certification Division
1:30 – 2:15 pm	**Workforce Investment Agency Funding Available to Develop Your Workforce** **Barbara Santos Van Meter**, Acting Director CNMI Workforce Investment Agency
2:15 – 3:00 pm	**Recruiting Talent from Northern Marianas College (NMC)** **Dr. Carmen Fernandez**, President **Heather Santos**, Career Services Manager Northern Marianas College
3:00 – 3:45 pm	**Recruiting Talent from the Northern Marianas Trades Institute (NMTI)** **Anthony Pellegrino**, President Northern Marianas Trades Institute
3:45 – 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** **Eric Plinske**, SHRM CNMI Chapter President-Elect

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For registration, email ericplinske@yahoo.com

Hafa Adai Society for Human Resource Management CNMI

Census 2010 JOB FAIR

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Dates, Times and Locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:

Saturday, December 5th from 11:00am – 4:00pm
at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe

Monday, December 7th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm
at Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria in Koblerville

Wednesday, December 9th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm
at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School Cafeteria in Kagman

Thursday, December 10th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm
at Tanapag Elementary School Cafeteria in Tanapag

Testing will take 30-45 minutes and will be offered every half hour for applicants with a completed application. Please bring a picture ID in order to complete the testing on the day of the Job Fair. Practice tests are available on the 2010 Census Website at ***http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/pdf/Practice_Test.pdf.***

A police clearance is not needed to apply and will be completed prior to employment if selected, along with a mandatory drug screening. Both the police clearance and the drug screening costs will be reimbursed after hire. Other US Census employment requirements are as follows:

- **Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate or have a GED. Some people, however, may be hired at age 16 if they meet conditions of employment set by local laws and are high school graduates.**
- **Be a U.S. citizen (However, if not a U.S. citizen, an applicant may be considered if qualified workers are still needed as translators or enumerators with special language skills)**
- **Have a social security number before being appointed.**
- **Must submit to the FBI fingerprint screening.**
- **Pass a written test of basic skills**
- **Have a valid driver's license (for most field jobs)**

Applications can be picked up at the Local Census Office or at OPM and completed in advance of the Job Fair. Please bring the completed application to the Job Fair.

All information about job opportunities is posted on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp . Further information is also available by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

Local Census Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information please call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
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Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

1st Quarterly Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the First Quarterly Meeting to take place on December 10, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saipan at the Saipan World Resort, Tapochau Room (2nd floor). The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Order
IV. Adoption of Agenda – December 10, 2009
V. Adoption of Minutes – September 22, 2009
VI. Adoption of By-Laws
VII. Committee Reports
  a. Call-A-Ride Committee Report-PSS-CDD MOA
  b. Fiscal Committee Report - DD Basic FY 2010 Budget
VIII. Executive Director's Report
IX. New Business
  a. CDD Quarterly Newsletter
  b. State Plan 2012
X. Open Discussion
XI. Next meeting
XII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

Saipan's mayor-elect forms his transition team

By JOVAN I. FRED
jovan_fred@saipantribune.com
REPORTER-TRAINEE

Saipan mayor-elect Donald Glen P. Flores has formed a transition team to ensure the smooth handover of the municipality's administration come January.

The 19-person team will be working with outgoing Mayor Juan B. Tudela from Dec. 9 to Dec. 16, 2009.

Members of the transition team who are currently employed with the local or central government have been allowed to go on leave during the transition period, said team chair Jeff Tomakane.

Besides Tomokane, other team officers are vice chair Kimo Rosario and team advisers Henry Hofschneider, Sid Cabrera, Vic Pangelinan, and Ray Guerrero. The team will also have subcommittees.

Flores said that Tomakane and his team were given a week to gather information and conduct a fact-finding investigation on what the new mayor will need to focus on once he takes office in January.

Because no money was allocated for this purpose, the team members are all working as volunteers. "The team was selected based on their help during the campaign and I believe they can do the job," said Flores.

He said he expects the team to work cohesively and work well with the incumbent mayor. "I would like to extend my appreciation to the present mayor Tudela for allowing this transition to go through," said Flores.

Tomokane, for his part, said, "The mayor-elect wishes to have a smooth and informative transition."

Tomakane will finalize the team's report before submitting it to Flores.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, #1242 Pohnpei Ct.
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670)664-4809 Fax No: (670)664-4814
Email: cnmihcplb@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 3pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (7/2/09 and 11/3/09)
V. Chairperson's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
IX. Old Business:
  A. PA J. Corrigan
  B. Declaration of Health Emergency (amended)
X. New Business:
  A. Terri Clawson's Request
  B. Letter from the Medical Executive Comm.
XI. Applications for Board's Review
  A. New/Renewal Applications
  B. Pending Applications
    1. A. Williams
    2. L. Rogoyama
XII. Miscellaneous Business:
  A. CE Requirements
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Dr. Ramsey – Settlement Agreement
  B. Dr. Macris
XIV. Announcements
XV. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Janet McCullough
Chairperson

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 9, 1998

With little time left, crisis panel off track

With barely a day before it expires, a special Senate committee tasked to deal with CNMI's economic crisis has yet to draw up a list of recommendations and possible solutions that may help the government address growing fears on the worsening condition. But a co-chair of the joint panel yesterday brushed aside perceived failure to plan a strategy at this time, saying that other government bodies set up in recent months are tackling the same problems that have plagued the island economy since late last year. Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes also said they are still gathering information from various groups which can assist them to come up with a comprehensive report for consideration by the legislature.

Privatized trash disposal operations planned

The CNMI Task Force on Solid Waste is planning to privatize part of the operation of the future Marpi depression landfill facility in order to stir employment opportunities for the community, according to Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan. Sablan, who heads the task force, said he will propose to the committee the privatization of trash collection and transportation of garbage from pick-up station up to the landfill to help create employment at a time when jobs are getting scarce because of the economic slump. Construction of the Marpi landfill is to begin either January or February next year, Sablan said, and will be operational by the end of 1999, paving the way for the closure of the 20-hectare Puerto Rico dump site—one of the campaign promises of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Dec. 9, 1999

30 percent retirement bonus may have to go

Government employees stand to lose the 30 percent bonus under an early retirement program by next week if Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio finally signs into law a bill that the Senate passed in a recent session after holding off action for nearly a year. Proponents of the legislation said elimination of such retirement benefit will comply with the ongoing austerity measures and stave off potential drain of the NMI Retirement Fund's resources. But senators, in voting 6-0 in favor of House Bill 11-359 during Tuesday's session, wanted assurances that current eligible recipients will not be denied the bonus once it becomes a law.

Enron warns against downsizing of power project

A plan to issue a new request for proposal for the controversial Saipan power plant will be a "complete mistake and a disaster," according to one of the top bidders for the long delayed project. An Enron official also warned it will be more expensive if the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation decides to scrap the 80-megawatt plant and begin a new round of procurement for a power project with a lower capacity. Frederick E. Lacroix, general manager of Enron Guam Piti Corp., said prices offered by current bidders will jump to reflect the rising inflation, higher interest rates and currency flactuation that have occured in the past few months.

Dec. 9, 2002

Pongsona nears supertyphoon status

Typhoon Pongsona mustered more strength yesterday, packing winds of up to 140mph as it prepared to make landfall on the Northern Marianas region, with its closest approach on Rota starting last night. The typhoon also dumped drenching rains across the region yesterday, with National Weather forecasts warning residents to prepare for 12 to 20 inches of rain that could possibly lead to flash floods and landslides. By yesterday afternoon, the weather disturbance has already prompted some 323 residents to troop to designate evacuation centers to take shelter and protection.

NMC's Moir resigns, 2 others terminated

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright has accepted Friday the resignation of executive vice president Barbara Moir and terminated two others related to her.In an interview, Wright confirmed that three individuals-Moir, her sister Melody Actouka, and Moir's assistant, Robert Hegwood-will be leaving the college but not until after 90 days or on March 1, 2003. Consequently, Wright introduced a new organizational chart, appointing new people to new posts, including former president Jack Sablan, whom he promoted as the interim dean for Academic Programs and Services. In the Sept. 24 redesign plan, Sablan who was dean of Continuing Education, was demoted to being a unit chief under his former staff, Tony Deleon Guerrero, who heads Community Programs and Services.

Two suspects nabbed for alleged 'ice' trafficking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Authorities arrested over the weekend two persons who were allegedly engaged in trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Yiming Xu, male, also known as Taz, and Guiying Mo, female, both Chinese nationals, were taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Xu and Mo were charged with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $60,000 cash bail for each one.

Detective Steven Castro stated in his report that members of the Department of Public Safety's Narcotics Unit managed to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Xu using a "cooperating source" and an undercover police officer at Xu's residence in Afetnas on Thursday.

Castro said the same officers, using the "cooperating source," again purchased $50 worth of "ice" from Xu on Friday.

The detective said the "cooperating source" also saw a pistol handgun on top of a table inside Xu's house.

Detective Norman Rasiang said in his report that it was Mo who handed over a baggie containing "ice" during a buy-bust operation on Friday.

During a search of the house on Saturday, Rasiang said, officers from the DPS Tactical Response Enforcement Team and Drug Enforcement Administration recovered 74 grams of "ice."

Rasiang said Mo was found in the restroom where baggies containing "ice" were recovered.

Meanwhile, police said yesterday that two juveniles escaped from Juvenile Detention in Kagman over the weekend. The juveniles allegedly cut the fence wires to escape. No other details were given.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Aiden "Ngiratis" Brel, who is celebrating his 3rd birthday! May the Lord continue to bless you today and always. Much love coming out from the family and most especially your mommy Mitz and your baby sister Tegan "Baslisa" Brel!

CNMI quarter launching on Thursday

The U.S. Mint will officially launch the Northern Mariana Islands Quarter on Dec. 10, 2009. The sixth and final quarter in the DC & US Territories Quarters Program was first released into circulation on Nov. 30, 2009. For some coin releases, the official launch ceremony is held on a different date than the circulation release.

Attending the ceremony will be U.S. deputy director Andrew Brunhart, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, first lady Josie Fitial, and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos.

The ceremony will be held at American Memorial Park Amphitheater, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The ceremony will begin at 9:30am local time.

The mistress of ceremonies will be CNMI Quarter Commission member Catherine Perry Anderson. A free Northern Mariana Islands Quarter will be given to more than 1,000 children expected to attend the ceremony. Other attendees will have the opportunity to exchange currency for rolls of the new coins at face value.

On the evening before the launch, a public coin form will be held from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at American Memorial Park Visitor's Center. The public is invited to the forum where they can learn about U.S. Mint coin programs and ask questions about future coinage.

According to the CoinNews.net, the newly released CNMI quarters are officially the scarcest of all 2009 quarters, or of any of the 50 State Quarters for the matter.

It said a total of 72,800,000 Northern Mariana Islands quarters were produced, with 35.2 million of those struck in Philadelphia and 37.6 million at Denver. "That accounts for just 88.6 percent of the prior U.S. Virgin Islands quarter production run [and] represents just 42.2 percent of the mintage totals for this year's first issued DC quarter," it said.

A more scarce coin tends to be more desirable. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PEPSI WINNER

Pepito Januario, left, is the lucky winner of this week's Pepsi Giveaway promo. He is shown here receiving his $300 cash prize from Pacific Trading Co.'s Mike Babauta.

Calvo sentencing postponed again

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja has once more postponed the sentencing of convicted sex offender Patrick Mendiola Calvo.

Naraja reset the sentencing for Jan. 12, 2010 at 9:30am.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher told *Saipan Tribune* Monday that the judge decided to postpone the sentencing again as the court is awaiting additional information from the Probation Office, which has been tasked to prepare a presentence report.

The sentencing of the 47-year-old Calvo was originally set for Nov. 30, 2009. It was then moved to Monday, Dec. 7, at 10am.

The businessman has been under house arrest while awaiting his sentencing.

Last September, jurors found Calvo guilty of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2008. He was pronounced guilty of sexual assault in the second degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Naraja found Calvo guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and disturbing the peace. The judge decided on the misdemeanor charges.

During a hearing last week, Naraja denied Calvo's motion for a new trial. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR MANAGAHA

- Installation of an additional Reverse Osmosis Water Tank;
- Replacement of one 150 kva Diesel Engine Generator;
- Dock Fender Repair and Replacement;
- Electrical supply upgrade from generator to main panel, replacement of main panel, panel to kitchen and panel to reverse osmosis room.

Proposals must be submitted to Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc., Chalan Lau Lau, Beach Road, Saipan, MP 96950 • Attention: Mr. David Igitol

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	031E	11/28 Sat	11/26 Thu	11/26 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/21 Sat	12/4 Fri	11/30 Mon	11/29 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/30 Mon	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	12/8 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/5 Sat	12/3 Thu	12/3 Thu	12/1 Tue	11/28 Sat	12/11 Fri	12/7 Mon	12/6 Sun	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	12/7 Mon	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	12/15 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/12 Sat	12/10 Thu	12/10 Thu	12/8 Tue	12/5 Sat	12/18 Fri	12/14 Mon	12/13 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/14 Mon	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	12/22 Tue
MELL SENOKO	032E	12/19 Sat	12/17 Thu	12/17 Thu	12/15 Tue	12/12 Sat	12/25 Fri	12/21 Mon	12/20 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/21 Mon	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	12/29 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	031E	12/26 Sat	12/24 Thu	12/24 Thu	12/22 Tue	12/19 Sat	1/1 Fri	12/28 Mon	12/27 Sun	12/20 Sun	12/20 Sun	12/28 Mon	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	1/5 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	024E	1/2 Sat	12/31 Thu	12/31 Thu	12/29 Tue	12/26 Sat	1/8 Fri	1/4 Mon	1/3 Sun	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	1/4 Mon	1/8 Fri	1/10 Sun	1/12 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	031E	12/12 Sat	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	SKIP	12/16 Wed	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	SKIP	12/25 Fri	12/26 Sat	12/31 Thu	1/19 Tue	1/3 Sun	12/30 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/19 Sat	12/20 Sun	12/20 Sun	11/22 Sun	12/23 Wed	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	SKIP	1/1 Fri	1/2 Sat	1/7 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/10 Sun	1/6 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/26 Sat	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	SKIP	12/30 Wed	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	SKIP	1/8 Fri	1/9 Sat	1/14 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/17 Sun	1/13 Wed
MELL SENOKO	032E	1/2 Sat	1/3 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/5 Mon	1/6 Wed	1/8 Fri	1/10 Sun	SKIP	1/15 Fri	1/16 Sat	1/21 Thu	2/9 Tue	1/24 Sun	1/20 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	031E	1/9 Sat	1/10 Sun	1/10 Sun	SKIP	1/13 Wed	1/15 Fri	1/17 Sun	SKIP	1/22 Fri	1/23 Sat	1/28 Thu	2/16 Tue	1/31 Sun	1/27 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	024E	1/16 Sat	1/17 Sun	1/17 Sun	1/19 Mon	1/20 Wed	1/22 Fri	1/24 Sun	SKIP	1/29 Fri	1/30 Sat	2/4 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/7 Sun	2/3 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 294

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A veteran's legal battle

Inmates commonly challenge convictions or sentences based on claims that they were saddled with bad lawyers. Just as common are decisions by judges to deny such claims. So it is extraordinary that last week a unanimous Supreme Court tossed out a death sentence against a Florida inmate who made such an argument. And no wonder.

George Porter Jr., a Korean War veteran with two Purple Hearts, pleaded guilty to the murder of a former girlfriend and her new boyfriend and was sentenced to death in 1988.

The justices did not overturn the convictions but lambasted the defense lawyer's failure to introduce mitigating evidence—including military service and possible post-traumatic stress—that could have led to a reduced sentence.

Had Mr. Porter's counsel been "effective," the justices wrote in the unsigned Nov. 30 opinion, the trial judge and jury would have learned about the kind of "troubled history" that the court has "declared relevant to assessing a defendant's moral culpability. ... They would have heard about (1) Porter's heroic military service in two of the most critical—and horrific—battles of the Korean War, (2) his struggles to regain normality upon his return from war, (3) his childhood history of physical abuse, and (4) his brain abnormality, difficulty reading and writing, and limited schooling."

The original lawyer for Mr. Porter either did not know of or failed to present any of this information. The justices concluded that the lawyer "unquestionably" failed his client and that "there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different."

The justices rightly excoriated lower courts, including the Florida Supreme Court, that rejected Mr. Porter's appeals even after new lawyers presented such evidence. "Our Nation has a long tradition of according leniency to veterans in recognition of their service, especially for those who fought on the front lines as Porter did," they concluded. Neither childhood traumas nor military service can excuse crime, but they can help, as the justices wrote, "humanize" a person so that a judge and jury can make an informed decision about the appropriate punishment.

In a way, Mr. Porter is lucky: His case stuck out because of his military record. That record deserves to be honored. But we wonder how many other defendants with "troubled histories" but without Purple Hearts have been failed by their lawyers and are still awaiting justice.

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WE SHALL FIGHT on the BEACHES, WE SHALL FIGHT on the LANDING GROUNDS, WE SHALL FIGHT in the FIELDS AND in the STREETS, WE SHALL FIGHT in the HILLS....
...and THEN
WE SHALL WITHDRAW in 18 MONTHS.
OK, WHO SLIPPED a PAGE FROM OBAMA'S AFGHANISTAN PLAN INTO CHURCHILL'S SPEECH?!

Exclusion of Chamorro voice on buildup

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The completion of the Environmental Impact Statement on the planned military buildup in Guam is out for public scrutiny. The study addresses the mega impact versus basic infrastructure costs and wildlife habitats on Guam. It did everything else except allow the most important equation: the indigenous people of Guam, specifically, their sentiment on the impending mega buildup.

To address this apparent misgiving or purposeful oversight, Guam's Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz introduced legislation that would grant the indigenous people the opportunity to vote on whether they support or oppose the planned military project. It is the most appropriate legislation that would grant real stakeholders a participatory voice on substantive issues affecting their livelihood.

These issues must come into full view for deliberative discussions before this plan is given approval for subsequent implementation. It's a process that must be allowed to take its natural course. Queries abound, including: How would this project impact the quality of life of the indigenous people? Would this require acquisition of more indigenous land for military purposes? What about the future need for residential subdivisions for the indigenous people? Would this issue be reduced to inconsequence in favor of military needs? How would this impact assist the indigenous people on basic infrastructure outside military fortifications? Who is going to defray these costs? In brief, it seems the buildup has the equivalence of placing the bull before the cart.

It is timely that the legislation is considered forthwith so that Uncle Sam hears the muted and oppressed voices of the indigenous people who only ask for common decency in forging a healthy future for their children. The simple folks at home have seen the dysfunctional relationship they had to endure with the military on indigenous land in the Andersen Air Force area. If this is any indication of what lies ahead, then the past is a quick reference for the future.

How much longer must this indignity be imposed rapaciously against a people who have served Uncle Sam so well for more than six decades? That the buildup means moving into my front and backyard definitely commands common decency in order that you ask me for my consent if such a plan is appropriate. I'm not sure that heavier dosages of colonization, alienation, degradation, dispossession, and marginalization of the indigenous people would restore their dignity as permanent hosts of Guam.

If I may, the military is notorious in the acquisition of prime land for its purposes. It has happened in the NMI and Guam. Must there be a repeat of history to understand that such a plan has simply turned the muted voices of our brothers and sisters into the perfect prescription of alienation and inconsequence? If you wish to be a good neighbor, start by listening to our sentiments, too. Rapacious acquisition of indigenous land no longer has a place anywhere in the Pacific Guam and the NMI included.

The Futenma military base in Okinawa speaks volumes of how Okinawans feel about a crowded and noisy fortification in their midst they wish relocated. Some 80,000 people are relocating to Guam and DOD isn't prepared to listen to the views of their hosts?

I wish to note too that the firepower of our country in the Pacific theatre is in the State of Hawaii. Satellite defense facilities aren't going to aid our defense posture in Asia and the Pacific other than the convenience of imposing "contingency" plans that stampede and crush indigenous dignity and rights. A happy medium is a must and it begins with the military promoting an inclusive policy of participation by the indigenous people of Guam. Anything short of this is a perfect recipe for a dysfunctional relationship with the military.

The Futenma military base in Okinawa speaks volumes of how Okinawans feel about a crowded and noisy fortification in their midst they wish relocated. Some 80,000 people are relocating to Guam and DOD isn't prepared to listen to the views of their hosts?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

To really save the planet, stop going green

By MIKE TIDWELL
Special to The Washington Post

Mike Tidwell is the executive director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

As President Obama soon heads to Copenhagen for global warming talks, there's one simple step Americans back home can take to help out: Stop "going green." Just stop it. No more compact fluorescent light bulbs. No more green wedding planning. No more organic toothpicks for holiday hors d'oeuvres.

December should be national Green-Free Month. Instead of continuing our faddish and counterproductive emphasis on small, voluntary actions, we should follow the example of Americans during past moral crises and work toward large-scale change. The country's last real moral and social revolution was set in motion by the civil rights movement. And in the 1960s, civil rights activists didn't ask bigoted Southern governors and sheriffs to consider "10 Ways to Go Integrated" at their convenience.

Green gestures we have in abundance in America. Green political action, not so much. And the gestures lure us into believing that broad change is happening when the data shows that it isn't. Despite all our talk about washing clothes in cold water, we aren't making much of a difference.

For eight years, George W. Bush promoted voluntary action as the nation's primary response to global warming—and for eight years, aggregate greenhouse gas emissions remained unchanged. Even today, only 10 percent of our household light bulbs are compact fluorescents. Hybrids account for only 2.5 percent of U.S. auto sales. One can almost imagine the big energy companies secretly applauding each time we distract ourselves from the big picture with a hectoring list of "5 Easy Ways to Green Your Office."

As America joins the rest of the world in finally fighting global warming, we need to bring our battle plan up to scale. If you believe that astronauts have been to the moon and that the world is not flat, then you probably believe the satellite photos showing the Greenland ice sheet in full-on meltdown. Much of Manhattan and the Eastern Shore of Maryland may join the Atlantic Ocean in our lifetimes. Entire Pacific island nations will disappear. Hurricanes will bring untold destruction. Rising sea levels and crippling droughts will decimate crops and cause widespread famine. People will go hungry, and people will die.

Morally, this is sort of a big deal. It would be wrong to let all this happen when we have the power to prevent the worst of it by adopting clean-energy policies.

But how do we do that? Again, look to the history of the civil rights struggle. After many decades of public denial and inaction, the civil rights movement helped Americans to see Southern apartheid in moral terms. From there, the movement succeeded by working toward legal change. Segregation was phased out rapidly only because it was phased out through the law. These statutes didn't erase racial prejudice from every American heart overnight. But through them, our country made staggering progress. Just consider who occupies the White House today.

All who appreciate the enormity of the climate crisis still have a responsibility to make every change possible in their personal lives. I have, from the solar panels on my roof to the Prius in my driveway to my low-carbon-footprint vegetarian diet. But surveys show that very few people are willing to make significant voluntary changes, and those of us who do create the false impression of mass progress as the media hypes our actions.

Instead, most people want carbon reductions to be mandated by laws that will allow us to share both the responsibilities and the benefits of change. Ours is a nation of laws; if we want to alter our practices in a deep and lasting way, this is where we must start. After years of delay and denial and green half-measures, we must legislate a stop to the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

Of course, all this will require congressional action, and therein lies the source of Obama's Copenhagen headache. To have been in a position to negotiate a binding emissions treaty with other world leaders this month, the president would have needed a strong carbon-cap bill out of Congress. But the House of Representatives passed only a weak bill riddled with loopholes in June, and the Senate has failed to get even that far.

So what's the problem? There's lots of blame to go around, but the distraction of the "go green" movement has played a significant role. Taking their cues from the popular media and cautious politicians, many Americans have come to believe that they are personally to blame for global warming and that they must fix it, one by one, at home. And so they either do as they're told—a little of this, a little of that—or they feel overwhelmed and do nothing.

We all got into this mess together. And now, with treaty talks under way internationally and Congress stalled at home, we need to act accordingly. Don't spend an hour changing your light bulbs. Don't take a day to caulk your windows. Instead, pick up a phone, open a laptop, or travel to a U.S. Senate office near you and turn the tables: "What are the 10 green statutes you're working on to save the planet, Senator?"

Forty-five years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson faced tremendous opposition on civil rights from a Congress dominated by Southern leaders, yet he spent the political capital necessary to answer a great moral calling. Whenever key bills on housing, voting and employment stalled, he gave individual members of congress the famous "Johnson treatment." He charmed. He pleaded. He threatened. He led, in other words. In person, and from the front. Does anyone doubt that our charismatic current president has the capacity to turn up the heat?

So join me: Put off the attic insulation job till January. Stop searching online for recycled gift wrapping paper and sustainably farmed Christmas trees. Go beyond green fads for a month, and instead help make green history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarification

Please allow me to clarify or correct the statement made on the *Saipan Tribune* article dated Dec. 8, 2009, titled "GOP president: We are graceful losers, we will move on." The statement was a miscommunication between the reporter and the GOP President. The comment should have read: "We [GOP] are graceful in losing, we will move on." There was no intention whatsoever to call any member of the Republican Party or any of our supporters and voters such name.

We are all *winners* and I urge everyone who supported and voted Republican and all other voters who exercised their right to vote this election year to continue to hold their heads up high and be proud because the stood up and voted for who and what voted believed in. A great saying goes: "Stand for what your believe in, even if you are the only one standing, because if you don't stand, you will fall for anything." By fighting for what you believed in, you already brought change to our community.

We also extend our sincerest appreciation and thank you to all of our supporters, voters, candidates, family and friends who worked so hard through the whole process. Without you the democratic process would be lost.

We humbly ask the entire CNMI community to come together to help build our islands regardless of political affiliation. We are a forgiving community and it is only when we forgive each other and work together that we can accomplish great things.

Finally, we extend a sincere congratulations to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Covenant Party for their re-election and win. We hope that your administration can bring forth the prosperous times to come for all who live and call the CNMI home.

With humble gratitude and appreciation, *si yu'us ma'ase, ghillisoow*, thank you, and happy holidays to all.

David Attao
Acting President
Republican Party of the NMI Association

*Editor's Note: The S*aipan Tribune *stands by its story and its quoted material, based on the recorded interview.*

No agreement

Let me start with the lines from the song *Both Sides Now*: "But now old friends are acting strange, they shake they heads, they said I've change. Well something's lost and something's gained from living every day." And I am not ready to lose my friends and gain temporary and unrealistic solutions for the long-term guest workers and at the same time lose the principles I have started.

Yesterday, Dec. 7, 2009, marked the second anniversary of the Unity March. Most of the good friends I have now I gained from organizing this event. To be honest, I am sad right now, for I or they are acting strange. We may still have the same goal of achieving what is best for guest workers but we have different directions now, knowing we are in a different time and situation. The CNMI immigration is now under federal control.

I have known Boni Sagana for two years and found him to be a good friend and have a pure intention for helping guest workers. I have no doubt about it. And up to now, I still consider him a good friend though we might have different opinions and ideas and interpretations with regards to the issues.

I appreciate all the efforts being made by the so-called leaders for the betterment of all guest workers. Just like anyone else, I am willing to explore any good possibilities with regards to improvement in the status of guest workers. No one can ever tell me to refrain from exercising my freedom on U.S. soil. Anything being offered to me at the table, I will always evaluate based on legality and morality. Both sides may be wrong, both sides may be right. As always, I believe that there are things that are morally acceptable but legally not and legally acceptable but morally not. It's just so unfortunate that the one on the table right now is morally acceptable but having it legally done has no chance at all.

To make things clear, at the meeting, *no agreement* was done with Deanne Siemer. Yes, we were not told to be quiet but were told to refrain from doing such acts. What is the difference?

Some do believe that attacking the governor or holding big demonstrations create a political backlash that can result in the governor actively opposing workers' goals. Anything new? He did it already. He requested and successfully had the "grandfathering" provisions deleted in the now Public Law 110-229. Had he not done so, long-term guest workers would now be enjoying this status. A status that would allow long-term guest workers to live and work in any part of America, and the CNMI is now part of America. How could I believe that he would not oppose any actions that would give us better status? Are we forgetting events and history? I hope I am wrong. But as the saying goes, "History repeat itself."

Malou Berueco
As Gonno, Saipan

Unfair labor practices

I was dismissed from a company as manager because I hired three local female residents: two U.S. citizens and one I.R. These three ladies applied for waitress and cashier. They are very good workers and should not have been terminated.

I was hired in July of this year to help the company with its employment applicants and labor processing documents. I lost my job as manager because of what I stood up for. I told them when I was first hired that I would not do anything illegal. I have been fighting to get the local U.S. citizens working and I will continue to do just that.

These employment issues that I have brought up in the past continue to be true. Everyone in the CNMI knows this problem exist but no one speaks out. Earlier this year, I started complaining to the government that their employment system broke down a long time ago. I have been the eyes out there and no one can not tell me that I don't know what I am talking about.

I went through the whole process of getting a job, being a U.S. citizen. I started as a normal job seeker and did find a job as a administrative manager to hire people. Once I got to this level, I was told by my boss to hire only pretty ladies. My boss was not interested in hiring local U.S. citizens.

The CNMI government needs to pay attention to investors that don't want to hire its people. I have been saying this all year, no one is reminding the foreign workers or the government needs to make them understand that Americans have the right to work in their our country.

I want to make a very important point clear: I am not prejudiced nor racist. I think all men are equal but I see and know for a fact that most foreign workers do not want to train nor give a local U.S. citizen a chance to work in the private sector. Ask me any question about how I know all this, I got the answer. I am so disappointed in the umbrella permit. It just adds to the problem of local U.S. citizen getting jobs. Who is helping the local job seekers? Are you voting for the right reasons? Yes, the election is over. Now will the government fix these unfair practices against us local U.S. job seekers?

I will report more on this issue but I want to open this complaint against this company. I will also ask the Labor Department not to renew any more contract workers for this company until they meet the requirement of hiring local residents.

Willie L. Brundidge Jr.
Kagman 2, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

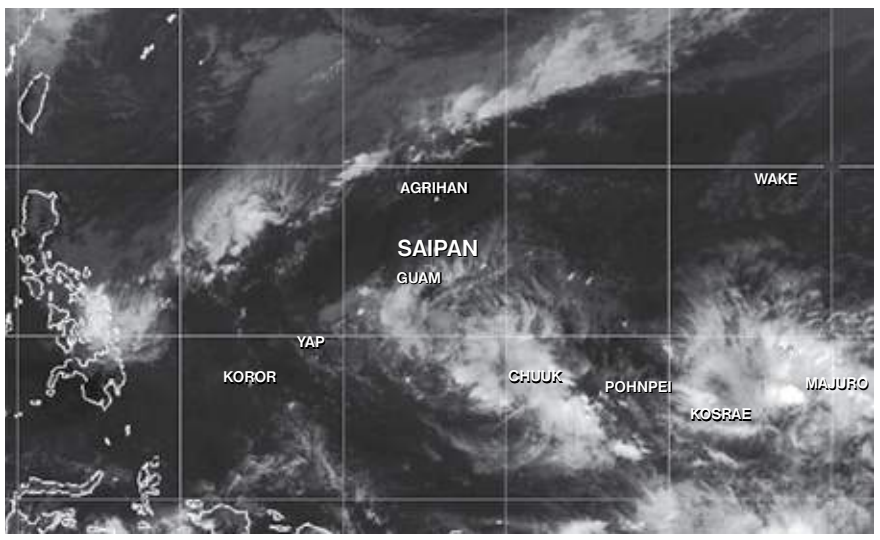
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲74	▼65
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲37	▼32
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼64
London	Cloudy	▲54	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲59	▼47
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼72
New York	Rain	▲46	▼38
Osaka	Showers	▲55	▼42
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼46
Pusan	Showers	▲55	▼46
Rome	Sunny	▲57	▼35
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲35	▼19
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼40
Seoul	Rain	▲53	▼39
Tokyo	Showers	▲47	▼43
Washington, DC	Showers	▲48	▼38

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends northeastward from 9N130E to a circulation southeast of Palau near 6N135E then eastward to end near 1N176E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Guam between 9N and 12N from 143E to 146E and over Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 10N149E to 3N157E farther east. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located from north of Kosrae over Kwajelein and Majuro between 3N and 10N from 163E to 177E. A shear line extends northeastward from a weak circulation northwest of koror centered near 10N130E to become a stationary front at 21N145E. The front continues to beyond 25N at 155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line from 14N132E to 16N132E. Cloudiness and patchy rain showers are also found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the stationary front from 16N132E to 25N155E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:02 AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:58 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
1:56 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:35 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:15 AM
Thursday	12:42 AM	12:55 PM
Friday	1:36 AM	1:36 PM
Saturday	2:30 AM	2:18 PM
Sunday	3:24 AM	3:02 PM

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:30am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Ranchers benefit from grazing workshops

Ranchers on the islands of Tinian and Rota recently completed three-day workshops on effective pasture and livestock management practices. The workshops were part of the Marianas Grazing Academy, a project organized through a collaborative effort between the Northern Marianas College and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam.

Thirty individuals attended the workshop on Tinian, and 12 attended the workshop on Rota. Each workshop consisted of presentations and discussions the first two days, with a hands-on field day on the last.

The workshops' presentations covered various agricultural topics that included the growth and production of forages, principles of grazing management, integrated weed management, fecal analysis for parasites, beef quality and marketing, and mobile slaughter facilities and opportunities.

"We appreciate the efforts of the Grazing Academy Team as this should serve to benefit all of our Ranchers here on Rota," said Rota rancher David Calvo. "The workshop was very informative about weed suppression, pasture improvement, pasture management, and animal grazing habits."

The workshops' field days featured a pasture walk and hands-on training on pasture condition evaluation, grazing utilization, management practices, and the identification of forages in pastures. Participants were also engaged in herbicide trials and demonstrations, as well as fecal sample analysis.

Participants from the Rota and Tinian NMC Grazing Academy Workshops each hold their certificates of completion while posing with NMC staff and workshop presenters at the conclusion of the three-day sessions.

NMC

"Over the years, we have been managing our ranches based on the information handed down and shared amongst local ranchers," said Tinian rancher and workshop participant Sam Palacios. "It is important for us now to educate ourselves in order to manage our farms better in order to improve our profitability and sustainability."

Presenters at both workshops include Dr. Mark S. Thorne, University of Hawaii Range and Livestock Management specialist, and Pasture and Livestock Extension agents Glen Fukumoto, John Powley, and Matt Stevenson.

"Looking at the turnout for this workshop, our ranchers have shown that they are appreciative of the assistance that this team is providing us in developing a curriculum specifically for ranchers," said Joe Dela Cruz, chairman of the Tinian Cattlemen's Association. "It is fantastic to know that the Grazing Academy Team is committed to building our capacity over the long-run so that we can reach our goals of having sustainable production of high quality grass-fed beef."

Similar workshops will be held on Saipan and Guam in January 2010. The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CSREES Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. ***(NMC)***

House OKs Guam political status education measure

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 3940, a bill that would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend technical assistance grants and other assistance to facilitate a political status public education program on Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

H.R. 3940 passed yesterday on a voice vote one month after Bordallo first introduced the bill and two weeks after it was approved by the House Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3940 will now be transmitted to the U.S. Senate for consideration in their chamber.

"The passage of H.R. 3940 by the U.S. House of Representatives…advances the issue of political self-determination in the non-self-governing territories by providing federal funding for political status education," Bordallo said. "H.R. 3940 now goes to the Senate for consideration and I hope that they will act on it with the same sense of priority that the House has viewed this issue. This bill is supported by the Obama Administration, elected officials from Guam, and decolonization and indigenous rights advocates on Guam. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress and with Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta to pass this legislation in the Senate." ***(PR)***

APIL resolutions address Samoan industry, services to COFA nations

HONOLULU—The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' board of directors ended a two-day session in the Hawai'i State Capitol's Senate chamber after passing resolutions addressing some of the most pressing issues facing its member states. It was the board's 50th meeting.

Resolution No. 50-BOD-02 extended APIL's full support to the efforts of American Samoa and its delegate to the U.S. Congress in advancing the American Samoa Protection of Industry, Resources and Employment proposal now before Congress. The proposal will provide greater stability to the fragile state of American Samoa. The resolution also recognized the "clear economic interconnectivity between island nations of the Pacific, and the successes of one island nation benefits from another as travel and trade [are] more frequent and the sharing of resources becomes common."

Resolution No. 50-BOD-04, CD1 strongly urged the U.S. Department of the Interior and Congress to provide federal aid to American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and the State of Hawai'i for the provision of essential services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association nations.

"The obligations of the U.S government under COFA have been a matter of ongoing concern," said Hawai'i Sen. J. Kalani English, who also serves as president of APIL. "The Compacts of Free Association allow for the free migration of citizens of Micronesia and the Freely Associated States throughout the United States and the Territories and Commonwealths, in recognition the contributions and sacrifices COFA citizens have made in the past. Too many people look at it as a handout, when it is actually a legitimate obligation. APIL's' concern is simply to see that these obligations are met, and that the states and territories have the resources to provide vital services."

In other resolutions, the APIL board extended its condolences to the family of the late Liufau Te'o Tanielu Sonoma Unutoa, a senator serving American Samoa (Res. No. 50-BOD-01) and expressed its gratitude to the Hawai'i State Legislature for the use of its facilities (Res. No. 50-BOD-03).

The next meeting of the APIL will be held in Kiribati next summer.

Established in 1981, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is an organization of Pacific island nations, states and territories that meets periodically to consider matters of mutual interest. It's members include 12 Pacific Island states: American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Federated States of Micronesia states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap; Republic of the Marshalls; Republic of Palau; State of Hawai'i; Island of Guam; Republic of Nauru; and Republic of Kiribati. ***(APIL)***

USDA-RD now accepting energy applications

The USDA Rural Development is now taking loan guarantees and grant applications for the Rural Energy for America Program, or REAP, for projects to be awarded in FY 2010.

This year, producers and businesses in Hawaii and the Western Pacific have received over $132,000 in REAP grants that can be used for renewable energy systems, and or energy efficiency improvements. Since 2005, Hawaii/Western Pacific has received almost $700,000 in grant funds for 15 solar photovoltaic projects.

Businesses and producers in rural Hawaii and the Western Pacific looking to create renewable energy, or make energy-saving improvements may be able to finance up to 75 percent of eligible project costs through the program. Stand-alone grants can be awarded up to 25 percent of total eligible costs. To qualify for financial assistance through REAP, project costs must be greater than $6,000 for energy efficiency projects, and $10,000 for renewable energy projects.

Details are at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html.

The REAP program is authorized in Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill. REAP offers grants and/or loan guarantees for the purchase and installation of renewable energy generating systems, and for energy efficiency improvements.

Assistance is limited to rural small businesses and agricultural producers, including farmers and ranchers. Nonprofits and units of government are not eligible. Residential use is not allowed. Projects must be located in a rural area, which is all of Hawaii and the Western Pacific except the Honolulu Census Designated Place.

REAP grants and guarantees may be used individually or in combination. Together they may finance up to 75 percent of a project's cost. Grants can finance up to 25 percent of project cost, not to exceed $500,000 for a renewable energy system, and not to exceed $250,000 for an energy efficiency project. An applicant can even apply for both types of projects, obtaining a maximum grant of up to $750,000.

Energy efficiency improvement projects can be in addition to a renewable system and include things such as retrofitting existing processing operations, replacing lighting/refrigeration/electric motors with more efficient equipment, and even build a more energy efficient facility (when the facility is used for the same purpose, is approximately the same size, and based on the energy audit will provide more energy savings than improving an existing facility). The program can be used to purchase and install renewable energy systems: solar, bioenergy (biomass, biogass), geothermal, wind, hydropower, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), and hydrogen. ***(USDA)***

ON THE NET

www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html

CONTACT INFO

Timothy W. O'Connell, Rural Energy Coordinator, Hawaii
Tel: 808-933-8313
E-mail at tim.oconnell@hi.usda.gov

Denise Oda, Business Programs Specialist, Hawaii
Tel: 808-933-8323
E-mail at denise.oda@hi.usda.gov

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,680.800
Down 14.300
(-0.30%)

HONG KONG
22,185.85
Down 139.11
(-0.62%)

JAKARTA
2,491.239
Up 7.481
(0.30%)

TOKYO
10,138.34
Down 29.26
(-0.29%)

K. LUMPUR
1,264.75
Down 0.61
(-0.05%)

MANILA
3,012.07
Down 34.56
(-1.13%)

SINGAPORE
2,799.06
Up 2.08
(0.07%)

SEOUL
1,628.82
Down 3.83
(-0.23%)

BANGKOK
701.26
Down 0.32
(-0.05%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,390.11
1.21

NASDAQ
2,189.61
-4.47

S&P
1,103.25
-2.73

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0957
British Pound	0.6082
Canadian Dollar	1.0513
Chinese Renminbi	6.8282
Euro	0.6740
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7503
Indian Rupee	46.2950
Indonesian Rupiah	9,440.0000
Japanese Yen	88.8230
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3915
New Zealand Dollar	1.4008
Philippine Peso	45.8770
Singapore Dollar	1.3889
South Korean Won	1,154.5750
Swiss Franc	1.0184
Taiwan Dollar	32.2310
Thailand Baht	33.1750

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Bernanke: Too early to declare lasting recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned Monday that it's too soon to know whether the economic recovery will last and again pledged to hold rates at record-low levels for an "extended period."

The Fed chief's speech to the Economic Club of Washington made clear he thinks the economy will struggle even as it recovers from the recession. He said the economy confronts "formidable headwinds"—including a weak job market, cautious consumers and tight credit.

Those forces "seem likely to keep the pace of expansion moderate," he said.

The central bank has leeway to keep rates low because inflation is under control and is expected to stay tame because of the economy's weakness. Some private forecasters even fear that the recovery could fizzle late next year as government stimulus fades.

Asked about prospects for such a "double dip" recession, Bernanke said he could not guarantee it won't happen. He stuck with his forecast for a moderate recovery but said a "vigorous snapback" is less likely.

Bernanke said he expects "modest" economic growth next year. That should help push down the nation's unemployment rate—now at 10 percent—"but at a pace slower than we would like," he acknowledged.

Under one Fed forecast released last month, the jobless rate would remain high next year—ranging from 9.3 to 9.7 percent. The Fed has warned that it could take five or six years for the job market to return to normal.

To nurture the recovery, the Fed has kept rates at record low near zero for a year. The central bank is expected to leave rates at those levels at its meeting Dec. 15-16. By doing so, the Fed hopes to entice people and businesses to boost spending, which would aid the recovery.

US govt: Zhu Zhu Pets don't violate toy safety law

AP

A Black Friday holiday shopper waits in a checkout line with a Zhu Zhu Pets and other items at the Toys "R" Us in Camp Hill, Pa., early Friday morning, Nov. 27, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zhu Zhu Pets—one of the holiday season's hottest toy crazes—do not violate safety standards, federal toy regulators said Monday after a consumer group raised concerns over the presence of a heavy metal on one model.

The toy "is not out of compliance" with a U.S. toy safety law that went into effect this year, a spokesman for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission told The Associated Press. The agency did not test the toy.

The California-based consumer group GoodGuide raised concerns starting Saturday over the presence of a potentially harmful heavy metal in a Mr. Squiggles model of the robotic hamsters. The group said its testing found antimony—a heavy metal that can cause vomiting if eaten, and heart and lung problems if breathed—on the furry toy's hair and nose in levels that exceeded new federal limits.

But those claims fell apart Monday, when GoodGuide said the way it got its test results—using a special gun that shoots X-rays into a toy and gives a reading for how much lead, antimony or other substances are in the material—is not recognized by the CPSC for judging whether a toy is hazardous.

Instead, the CPSC tests how much of a heavy metal would actually seep out if a child sucked or swallowed a toy—not just how much of a potentially dangerous substance a toy contains.

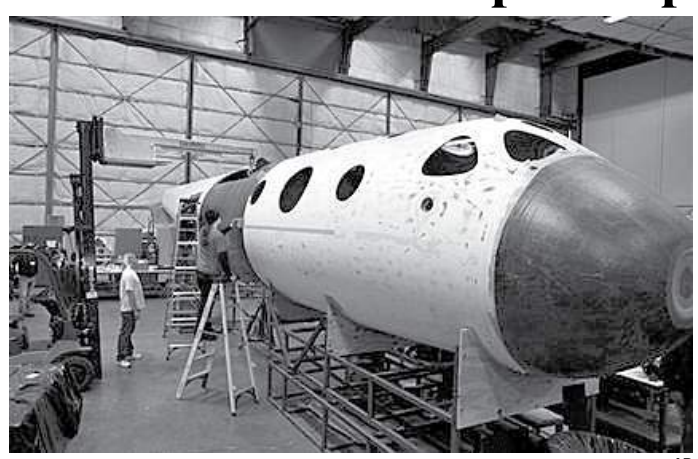
"While we accurately reported the chemical levels in the toys that we measured using our testing method, we should not have compared our results to federal standards," GoodGuide said in a written release. "We regret this error."

Virgin Galactic unveils commercial spaceship

MOJAVE, Calif. (AP)—The sleek, bullet-shaped spacecraft is about the size of a large business jet—with wide windows and seats for six well-heeled passengers to take a ride into space.

It's billed as the world's first commercial spaceship, designed to be carried aloft by an exotic jet before firing its rocket engine to climb beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

On Monday, Virgin Galactic took the cloak off SpaceShipTwo, which had been under secret development for two years. The company plans to sell suborbital space rides for $200,000 a ticket, offering passengers 2 1/2-hour flights that include about five minutes of weightlessness.



AP

This undated file photo provided by Virgin Galactic shows placement of the center beam during SpaceShipTwo's construction inside the Scaled Composites plant at the Mojave Airport in Mojave, Calif.

"We want this program to be a whole new beginning in a commercial era of space travel," said Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson, who partnered with famed aviation designer Burt Rutan on the venture.

Obama eyes 'selective' use of bailout dollars

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Monday the massive federal bailout program for financial insititutions has turned out to be much less costly than expected and there may be ways to redirect some of the money toward creating new jobs.

Speaking in the Oval Office, Obama declined to say directly whether he would seek to redirect some of the repaid money from the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program to jobs programs. He did say he would address the topic in an economic speech on Tuesday.

The president said the key question is determining whether the bailout money could be put toward selective job creation that meets the original intent of the law. He cited as an example directing bailout money to help small businesses get lending.

The president's comments came as Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill were looking to tap as much as $70 billion in unused funds from the Wall Street bailout to pay for new spending on roads and bridges and to save the jobs of firefighters, teachers and other public employees. Republican leaders are voicing strong opposition to that idea, saying all the money should go toward reducing the federal deficit.

In particular, Obama signaled that money from the $700 billion financial rescue program could be used as part of a jobs package for the purpose of helping small- and medium-sized businesses get loans to invest and ultimately to hire workers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Consumer borrowing falls for 9th straight month

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans borrowed less for a record ninth straight month in October, another sign that consumer spending will remain weak, making it harder for the economy to mount a sustained rebound. Consumer credit fell at an annual rate of $3.51 billion in October, the Federal Reserve s id Monday. Economists expected a $9.3 billion decline. Demand for revolving credit, the category that includes credit cards, fell 9.3 percent, while borrowing in the category that includes auto loans rose at an annual rate of 2.6 percent. Americans are borrowing less as they try to replenish depleted investments. Many are finding it hard to get credit as banks, hit by the worst financial crisis since the 1930s, have tightened lending standards.

SEC accuses 3 ex-New Century execs of fraud

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Monday accused three former top executives of collapsed mortgage lender New Century Financial Corp. of fraud, saying they misled investors and inflated profits as the company's subprime loan business was failing in 2006. In a case stemming from the mortgage market meltdown, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a lawsuit seeking injunctions, and unspecified civil fines and restitution against New Century's former CEO and co-founder Brad Morrice, former chief financial officer Patti Dodge and former controller David Kenneally. The SEC also wants the three barred from serving as officers or directors of any public company and reimbursement of their bonuses or stock option awards.

Ex-Hyundai exec. gets 9 years in fatal crash

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A former Hyundai Motor America executive has been sentenced to nine years in prison in a drunken driving crash that killed a motorcyclist in California. Youn Bum Lee was sentenced Monday after pleading guilty last month to vehicular manslaughter in the 2005 death of college student Ryan Dallas Cook. Lee received a sentencing enhancement for fleeing the scene. Prosecutors say he crashed his company car on an Orange County freeway after drinking with colleagues. Cook slammed into Lee's car and was thrown onto the freeway, where he was hit by other cars. Cook was pronounced dead at the scene. Prosecutors say Lee boarded a flight to Korea the day after the crash, leaving his family behind. He was arrested in Seoul last year and was returned in January to Orange County.

Nation

Pearl Harbor attack remembered 68 years later

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—Dozens of survivors of Pearl Harbor on Monday solemnly remembered those who died in the Japanese aerial assault 68 years ago as a top Navy commander said their bravery laid the foundation for the subsequent U.S. victory in World War II.

About 2,000 servicemen and women and members of the general public joined the survivors. The crowd looked out on the spot where the USS Arizona sank in the first minutes of the attack, killing 1,177 people. Almost 1,000 people are still entombed on the battleship.

To some, the service has taken on great poignancy given the fact that U.S. troops are risking their lives in the more recent conflicts of Iraq and Afghanistan. Last week, President Barack Obama issued orders to send another 30,000 troops to Afghanistan.

"It's the same thing all over again," said 89-year-old Richard Laubert, of Phoenix, Ore., who was a pharmacist mate at the Naval hospital at the time of the attack. "I just thought when we were doing the war that would be it for the rest of time. But it seems like we just never solve anything."

Sterling Cale, 88, said chills ran down his back as he remembered picking up wounded sailors and bodies from the water when he was a Navy corpsman 68 years ago.

"I was in the water there and picked up 46 people in four hours," Cale said. He recalled having to swim mostly underwater because diesel fuel leaking from the ships caught fire.

AP

With sailors seen in the foreground, a flag flies at half staff on the Arizona Memorial during the 68th anniversary ceremony of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Monday, Dec. 7, 2009 at Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Honolulu.

John Hughes, who was a Marine serving at Ewa Field, a West Oahu air station on Dec. 7, 1941, choked up when he was asked what was going through his mind.

"You think back about what happened," said Hughes, as a tear trickled down his cheek. The 90-year-old flew to Hawaii from Santa Ana, Calif. for the ceremony.

Adm. Patrick Walsh, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, said the valor and selfless sacrifice of that morning defined the Navy. The way Navy recovered from the attack "charted a path for a wounded nation," he added.

"It's important to remember what those who serve experience in the hours that follow tragedy," Walsh said. "It's their biography that inspires us and gives us the strength, the commitment, the character and the resilience for the fights that we have ahead of us."

The youngest survivors are now about 85 years old, and their numbers are dwindling.

Laubert said he hopes to return for the 69th anniversary next year. The Pearl Harbor Survivors Association says the 2010 observance may mark their last gathering given the age of their members.

"When you get to 90, your chances are thinning out," Laubert said.

By next year, the National Park Service plans to finish construction on a $58 million new visitors center near the Arizona memorial. The current center, which was built on reclaimed land in 1980, is sinking.

It also takes in twice as many visitors each day than it was designed to hold. People must often squeeze by one another to view photos and maps in the small exhibit hall.

The new center will be triple the size, allowing the park service to explain the history of the attack in greater detail, including how Japanese and Americans perceived each other in 1941.

Among the themes, said Daniel Martinez, the park's chief historian, would be: "How did these great countries that had been friends become mortal enemies?"

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio killer awaits fate as 1st execution on 1 drug

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A condemned killer scheduled to become the first person in the U.S. put to death with a single drug—in an execution that could take longer than previous procedures—arrived Monday at the Ohio death house. Kenneth Biros, 51, was sentenced to die Tuesday for killing and dismembering a woman he met in a bar in 1991. It would be the first lethal injection under Ohio's switch from using three drugs to a new one-drug execution method. In the event that method fails, a backup plan allows executioners to inject drugs directly into muscles. Ohio overhauled its procedure after the failed attempt to execute Romell Broom, a procedure halted by Gov. Ted Strickland in September. Executioners tried for two hours to find a usable vein for injection, hitting bone and muscle in as many as 18 needle sticks that Broom said were very painful.

Powerful snowstorm sweeps across West

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—A large and powerful storm howled across the West with snow and strong winds Monday, snarling traffic, closing schools and threatening to spawn mudslides in wildfire-devastated Southern California. Virtually the entire region was suffering, from subzero wind chills in Washington state to heavy snow that closed schools and government offices in Reno, Nev., and left big rigs jackknifed across highways in several states. Blizzard warnings were in effect for northern Arizona and parts of Colorado, with forecasters predicting up to 2 feet of snow around Flagstaff. The National Weather Service said the upper elevations of the Sierra mountains could get up to 3 feet of snow, with up to 4 feet forecast for the mountains of southern Utah. Even the hills east of San Francisco Bay received a rare dusting overnight, and snow was predicted for Fresno and other communities in California's Central Valley.

US plan to round up wild horses draws opposition

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—One of most stirring symbols of the American West—mustangs thundering freely across the range—could be heading east. The government wants to carry out what is believed to be the biggest-ever roundup of wild horses on federal land, moving as many as 25,000 mustangs and burros to pastures in the Midwest and East out of fear their fast-multiplying numbers will lead to mass starvation. The plan is facing heated opposition from advocates, including celebrities Sheryl Crow, Bill Maher and Ed Harris, who contend the proposal is itself inhumane and unnecessary. They say the situation is not as dire as the government has painted it. "The Obama administration must craft a new policy that protects these animals and upholds the will of Congress and the public's desire to preserve this important part of our national heritage," said William Spriggs, lawyer for the group In Defense of Animals.

Senate Dems seek expansion of Medicare, Medicaid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democratic liberals are seeking expansion of two large federal programs, Medicare and Medicaid, in exchange for dropping a government-sold insurance option from health care legislation sought by President Barack Obama, several lawmakers said Monday.

Under the potential trade-off with party moderates, near-retirees beginning at age 55 or 60 who lack affordable insurance would be permitted to purchase coverage under Medicare, which generally provides medical care beginning at 65. Medicaid, the federal-state health care program for the poor, would be open to all comers under 300 percent of poverty, or slightly over $66,000 for a family of four.

Senators and aides said the changes have been discussed extensively in recent days as a small group of moderate and liberal Democrats search for a middle ground to assure passage of the bill atop Obama's domestic agenda.

Given the complexities of the two programs, and the White House's goal of passing legislation by year's end, it wasn't clear whether the negotiations would ultimately prove successful, or whether they merely were a last stab by liberals to salvage some concession in a monthslong debate.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., imposed a deadline of Tuesday to complete the talks, according to Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, a participant in the negotiations.

"It's one of those kind of things in the middle that doesn't make everybody very happy but that's our compromise," Harkin said. "It's something I'm going to probably have to live with."

Historic EPA finding: Greenhouse gases harm humans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration took a major step Monday toward imposing the first federal limits on climate-changing pollution from cars, power plants and factories, declaring there was compelling scientific evidence that global warming from manmade greenhouse gases endangers Americans' health.

The announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency was clearly timed to build momentum toward an agreement at the international conference on climate change that opened Monday in Copenhagen, Denmark. It signaled the administration was prepared to push ahead for significant controls in the U.S. if Congress doesn't act first on its own.

The price could be steep for both industry and consumers. The EPA finding clears the way for rules that eventually could force the sale of more fuel-efficient vehicles and require plants to install costly new equipment—at a cost of billions or even many tens of billions of dollars—or shift to other forms of energy.

No analysis has been conducted by the EPA on costs of such broad regulations, although the agency put the price tag of its proposed climate-related car rules at $60 billion, with an estimated benefit of $250 billion.

Mullen expects casualties to rise in Afghanistan

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP)—The nation's highest-ranking military officer told soldiers and Marines Monday that the insurgency in Afghanistan has grown in the last three years and he expects casualties to rise next year as additional U.S. troops pour into the war.

"This is the most dangerous time I've seen growing up the last four decades in uniform," Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told about 1,000 Marines at Camp Lejeune.

Many attending Mullen's talks at Camp Lejeune and Fort Campbell, Ky., will be sent to Afghanistan in President Barack Obama's plan announced last week.

After the first of the year, the Marines will begin sending an additional 6,200 from Lejeune and Camp Pendleton, Calif., the Pentagon announced Monday. The Army will also begin sending in the first of its forces in the spring—a training brigade with about 3,400 soldiers from Fort Drum, N.Y. Three brigades from Fort Campbell's 101st Airborne Division are also heading to Afghanistan and about 4,100 support forces from various places will deploy early.

Asia

Gates to Afghans: US 'in this thing to win'

KABUL (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates arrived Tuesday in Afghanistan with plans to assure officials and American troops there that the United States is committed to winning the war despite plans to begin pulling forces out in 2011.

"We are in this thing to win," Gates told reporters while traveling to Kabul, where he plans to meet privately with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and later with troops bearing the brunt of combat.

The secretary's trip to Afghanistan is the first by a Cabinet member since President Barack Obama's announcement last week that he will deploy 30,000 more troops with the intention of starting to bring them home in July 2011.

As Gates took his message abroad, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the overall military commander in Afghanistan, will try Tuesday to convince a skeptical Congress that more troops are needed to fight a growing enemy insurgency. More than 920 U.S. troops have died in the 8-year-old war.

McChrystal's appearance before the House Armed Services Committee starts the first of three days of congressional Afghanistan hearings that are expected to draw hard questions from both anti-war Democrats and conservative Republicans about Obama's stated intention to begin paring down the U.S. role in July 2011.

Gates and other administration officials have described the 2011 date as just the beginning, with the process likely take at least two or three years to complete.

Gates, in a midair briefing en route to Kabul, said he believes the U.S. mistakenly abandoned Afghanistan in 1989 as it fought the Soviets and understands Afghan concerns that they will be left alone against the Taliban.

Gates says he will try to assure Karzai and his advisers "that we are not going to repeat the situation in 1989" and that "we intend to be their partner for a long time to come."

Amnesty calls for end to Philippine martial law

SHARIFF AGUAK, Philippines (AP)—Amnesty International called on the Philippine government Tuesday to revoke martial law in a southern province, where troops cracked down on a powerful clan and its armed supporters blamed for the massacre of 57 people.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo last week declared military rule in Maguindanao province, allowing government forces to arrest members of the Ampatuan clan without court warrants and order some 2,400 loyalists to surrender their weapons.

The Ampatuans, who had forged a political alliance with Arroyo and ruled the impoverished province unopposed for years, are the main suspects in the Nov. 23 ambush on an election rival's convoy that included 30 journalists and their staff.

On the day martial law was announced Saturday, troops and police arrested Andal Ampatuan Sr., the family patriarch, and more than 20 others, including his sons and relatives. Beside murder, prosecutors plan to file rebellion charges against them for allegedly fomenting armed resistance—a justification for martial law proclamation, Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said.

A group of lawyers has challenged the proclamation, asking the Supreme Court on Monday to throw it out, arguing the law and order breakdown in Maguindanao did not amount to a rebellion. It was not clear when the high court will issue a ruling.

Amnesty International urged authorities to "develop a quick and clear timetable" to end martial law and dismantle the country's armed paramilitary groups.

8 killed, 26 injured in China school stampede

BEIJING (AP)—Eight youths were killed and 26 injured when students descending a crowded staircase after evening classes at a school in central China lost their footing amid a crush of bodies, state media and the local government reported Tuesday.

Students were rushing out of evening study sessions at 9:10 p.m. on Monday (1310 GMT) at Xiangxiang city's private Yucai Middle School when some lost their footing and began to fall on top of one another in a stampede on the steps.

More than 400 students had been exiting classrooms via an enclosed stairwell just 4 feet (1.2 meters) wide, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

The dead were listed as seven boys and one girl, aged 11-14, while eight other students were hospitalized with serious injuries, according to a local government notice and the official Xinhua News Agency.

Leaders of the city 720 miles (1,160 kilometers) south of Beijing immediately removed the head of the education bureau for bearing "leadership responsibility" for the accident, the government said.

The school's principal and chairman of its board of governors have been placed under a mild form of detention as part of the investigation, said a city government official reached by phone. Like many Chinese bureaucrats he refused to give his name.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Intel: Alleged US missiles kill 3 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Suspected U.S. missiles killed three people in a Taliban-riddled northwest region early Tuesday, intelligence officials said, as Pakistanis reeled from a day's worth of bombings that killed at least 59 in the U.S.-allied, nuclear-armed nation. The bombings signaled a relentless determination on the part of the militants, who—despite being pressured by a major army offensive along one of their Afghan border strongholds—have sustained a retaliatory campaign since October that has killed more than 400 people. The U.S., too, has declined to ease off on its campaign of missile strikes in those strongholds, despite official Pakistani protest.

SKorean president offers swine flu aid to NKorea

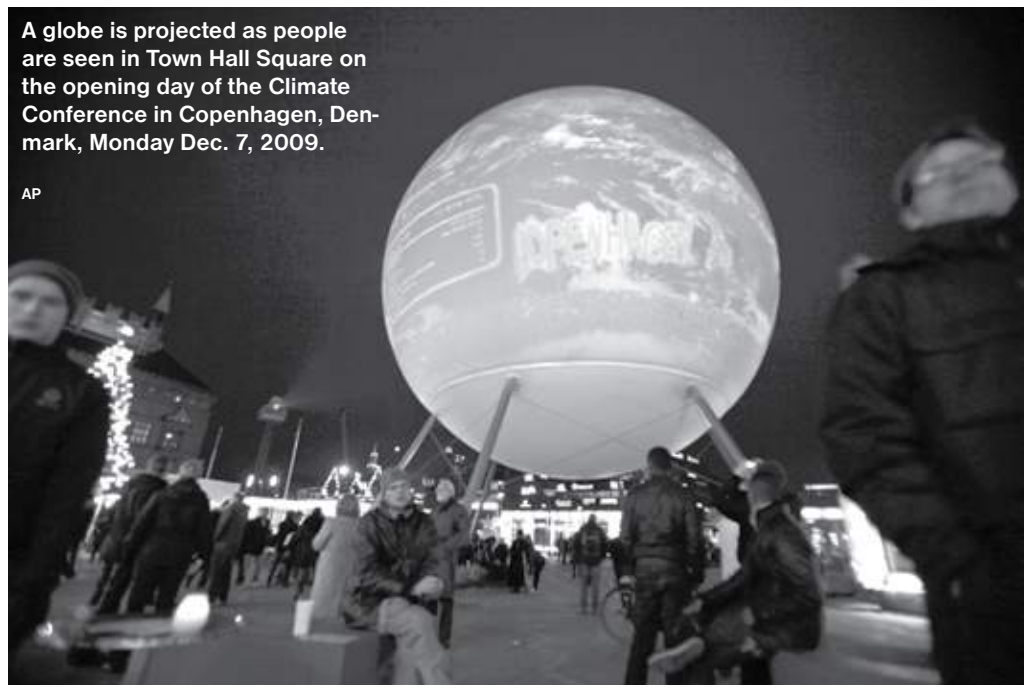
SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president offered Tuesday to send swine flu medication to North Korea amid reports that the virus killed dozens of people and is spreading fast in its impoverished communist neighbor. The Seoul-based aid group Good Friends said in newsletters Monday that swine flu broke out in the North last month, and that it had already claimed the lives of about 40 people in the border city of Sinuiju, near China, and seven in the capital, Pyongyang. The North's state media outlets have remained silent on the reported outbreak.

Obama sending envoy to North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—After a year of tensions, President Barack Obama is sending a veteran diplomat to North Korea on Tuesday for the highest-profile talks between Pyongyang and Washington since he took office pledging to reach out to America's adversaries. A key question is whether Stephen Bosworth can extract a firm commitment from Pyongyang to rejoin nuclear disarmament talks—whether North Korea is serious, this time, about peace on the peninsula Bosworth is scheduled to fly from a U.S. military base near Seoul to the North Korean capital Tuesday to see if the North will return to the international disarmament talks that it abandoned earlier this year.

World

Historic climate debate opens, with boost from US



A globe is projected as people are seen in Town Hall Square on the opening day of the Climate Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, Monday Dec. 7, 2009.

AP

COPENHAGEN (AP)—The United States delivered a welcome boost Monday to a pivotal climate conference by saying greenhouse gases blamed for global warming should be regulated as a health hazard.

The Obama administration's announcement came as delegates opened a meeting of 192 nations with emotional appeals to leaders in Washington and elsewhere to take stronger action.

Such regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would supplement the cap on carbon dioxide emissions being considered in the U.S. Congress, effectively raising the U.S. offer on emissions reductions in two weeks of hard bargaining in Copenhagen.

"The executive branch is showing what it can do, even while legislation is pending," Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the U.N. scientific network on climate change, said of the EPA action. "It also sends a powerful signal to Congress. It shows a degree of resolve on the part of the president."

Italy: No issues with US over Knox verdict

ROME (AP)—The murder conviction of U.S. student Amanda Knox has not damaged U.S.-Italian relations, despite suggestions the verdict was tainted by anti-American sentiment, a top Italian diplomat said Monday.

After a tense weekend, the diplomat sought to quell speculation of a full-blown crisis, saying that no criticism had come from the U.S. secretary of state.

"Who criticized?" asked Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, speaking to reporters in Brussels. "Certainly not Hillary Clinton. Let's not create confusion."

Clinton, speaking Sunday, said she had not looked into the case but would meet with anybody who had concerns.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ian C. Kelly said Clinton was interested in the case and intended to speak with Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Democrat from Washington state, who has questioned the fairness of the trial.

Asked whether the State Department believed Knox had been treated fairly, Kelly said, "I don't have any indications to the contrary. I do know that our embassy in Rome was very closely involved in this. They visited Amanda Knox. They have monitored the trial."

He added: "We are not going to comment too much on an ongoing legal process."

Knox was convicted over the weekend of sexually assaulting and murdering her British roommate, Meredith Kercher, and sentenced to 26 years in jail.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran student protests bring out tens of thousands

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Tens of thousands of students, many shouting "Death to the Dictator!" and burning pictures of Iran's supreme leader, took to the streets on more than a dozen campuses Monday in the biggest anti-government protests in months. Riot police and pro-government Basij militiamen on fleets of motorcycles flooded Tehran's main thoroughfares, beating men and women with clubs as crowds of demonstrators hurled bricks and stones. Some protesters set tires and garbage cans ablaze. "Death to the oppressor, whether it's the shah or the leader!" the students chanted, according to witnesses—making a daring comparison between Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the pro-U.S. shah, despised in Iran since his overthrow in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

UN chief asks al-Bashir's help to free hostages

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called Sudan's president to seek help in freeing two members of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur who have been held hostage for more than 100 days, the U.N. said Monday. U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said it was the first call between the secretary-general and Omar al-Bashir since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for the Sudanese leader in March on charges of orchestrating war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. Ban's phone call Sunday came two days after Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the court's chief prosecutor, said the Sudanese leader was becoming increasingly isolated and will ultimately face international justice. Al-Bashir has refused to recognize the tribunal's authority.

Commando units arrest civilians in Guinea

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Commando units loyal to the wounded leader of Guinea's military junta swept through neighborhoods near the capital on Monday, arresting civilians believed to have ties with the renegade soldier that tried to assassinate their leader. The arrests came as the ruling junta tried to reassure the population about the president's health, insisting that that Capt. Moussa "Dadis" Camara was recovering well from a surgery in a Moroccan hospital where he had been rushed for emergency treatment, but the capital remained tense as the fate of the military dictatorship remained unknown. Residents said that at least three military pickup trucks filled with soldiers wearing fetishes in their hair descended on a street of corrugated tin shops, looking for a marabout, or local witch doctor.

Campus Life

Green Meadow students haul off 42 PGFC honors

It was another outstanding day for Green Meadow School students at the Primary Grade Forensic Conference competition held at the William S. Reyes Elementary School on Dec. 5, 2009. A total of 42 honors were won in different categories, including eight first places and seven second places. Congratulations to all GMS participating students and thank you for the untiring support of coaches, parents, judges and supporters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kindergarten to second grade students of the Green Meadow School participated in the Primary Grade Forensic Conference competition held on Dec. 5, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Third to fifth grade students of the Green Meadow School pose for a picture after participating in the third Primary Grade Forensic Conference competition on Dec. 5, 2009, at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

K-2 DIVISION: (K-2ND GRADE)

Choral Speaking A:
1st Place: Kimvherly Dela Cruz
Angel Mae Oropesa
Art Vincent Alfeche
Ashley Reganit
Trina Marie Rena

Choral Speaking B:
1st Place: Jody Coloma
Joshua Alfred
Rayven Daca
Morgiana Alepuyo
Naveen Lucenara
5th Place: Robin Agbayani
Miguel Mallari
Anthony Kevin Agulto
Ardel Ciolo

Duo Interpretation A:
3rd Place: Kristina Jane Crisostomo & Mikee Mame Mendoza

Duo Interpretation B:
2nd Place: Natalie Jane Hirshbein & Angel Mae Oropesa

Duo Interpretation B:
5th Place: Alexandra Belle Dalusung & Ian Willard Ranin

Dramatic Interpretation A:
2nd Place: Aldraine Angelo Galang

Dramatic Interpretation B:
5th Place: Natalie Jane Hirshbein
Humorous Interpretation A:
1st Place: Jody Coloma
3rd Place: Jhanylin Cruz
5th Place: Mikee Mame Mendoza

Humorous Interpretation B:
1st Place: Christian Edward Mendoza
5th Place: Kristina Crisostomo

Impromptu:
4th Place: Radge Palma

Reader's Forum:
R.F.A: **4th Place:** Robin Agbayani
R.F.MA: **5th Place:** Alexandra Belle Dalusung
R.F.MC: **3rd Place:** Aldraine Angelo Galang

Coaches:
K-3 - Moody Binuya
K-4 - Joy L. Chapap
K-5 - Sony Natividad
1st Grade – Leonor Marfil
2nd Grade – Marilyn Divino

3- 5TH DIVISION: (3RD-5TH GRADES)

Choral Speaking A:
3rd Place: Pionnah Rosej Gregorio
Ryan Louis Divino
Franchesca Sophia Del Pilar
Anniea Sofia Saturno
4th Place: Ezekiel Alfred
Amelito Dalusong Jr.
Keandre Phillip Deseo
Joshua Christian Saturno

Choral Speaking B
1st Place: Ma. Fatima Briones
Danielle Coloma
Ma. Theresa Dalusong
Angela Reganit
2nd Place: Andrea Monique Agtarap
Gabrielle Shanikka Flores
Gelomener Miko Narciso
Robin Matthew Reyes
Tianna Thalia Villagomez
3rd Place: Mary Grace Briones
Chekaina Viel Coloma
Monica Aira Usi

Dramatic Interpretation:
2nd Place: Ma. Theresa Dalusong
4th Place: Pionnah Rosej Gregorio

Duo Interpretation A:
2nd Place: Andrea Monique Agtarap & Gabrielle Shanikka Flores
5th Place: Piolo Gregorio & Zamuel Alfred

Duo Interpretation B:
1st Place: Ryan Louis Divino & Anniea Sofia Saturno
2nd Place: Chekaina Viel Coloma & Joshua Saturno
5th Place: Ezekiel Alfred & Monica Aira Usi

Humorous Interpretation A.
4th Place: Angel Sean Legaspi

Humorous Interpretation B:
5th Place: Robin Matthew Reyes

Reader's Forum:
R.FMA: **1st Place:** Angel Sean Legaspi
4th Place: Tianna Thalia Villagomez
R.F.MC: **2nd Place:** Mary Grace Briones
5th Place: Gelomener Miko Narciso
R.F.MD: **4th Place**: Ma. Fatima Briones
5th Place: Angela Reganit
R.F.ME: **3rd Place:** Franchesca Del Pilar
R.F. B: **5th Place**: Eustaquio Pascual
R.F.E: **3rd Place**: Justin Andrew Palabay

Impromptu Speaking A:
1st Place: Amelito Dalusong Jr.
5th Place: Danielle Coloma

Impromptu Speaking B:
3rd Place: Keandre Phillip Deseo

Coaches:
3rd Grade: Eleonor Alejo
4th Grade: Manuel Castro
5th Grade: Cenon Ayuman

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students of the Grace Christian Academy pose for a picture after participating in the third Primary Grade Forensic Conference competition on Dec. 5, 2009, at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

GCA PGFC DECEMBER WINNERS

Congratulations to the Grace Christian Academy winners and all who competed in the third Primary Grade Forensic Conference competition on Dec. 5, 2009, at William S. Reyes Elementary School. Thanks to all the participants, teachers, parents, and judges who supported this event. The following are the winners from K, 5th grades.

K, 2 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation, B
Tae Yong Kim, 4th place

Impromptu Speaking A
Riley Anne Buenaventura, 1st place
Jim Michael Ham, 2nd place
Francisco Patrick Aldan, 3rd place
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 5th place

Impromptu Speaking B
Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 1st place
Matt Jason Moran, 2nd place
Amaris Birmingham, 3rd place
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 4th place
Tae Yong Kim, 5th place

Readers Forum, Masters A
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 1st place
Mary Abigail Marcelo, 2nd place

Readers Forum, Masters B
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st place
Arvin Dayao, 3rd place
Jim Michael Ham, 4th place
Haram Na, 5th place

3, 5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A
Alfie Madlambayan, 3rd place
Mycah Klerang Yobech, 5th place

Humorous Interpretation A
Tiffany Madlambayan, 1st place
Alfie Madlambayan, 3rd place

Humorous Interpretation B
Rita Riona Laxamana, 3rd place
Audrey Yue, 4th place

Duo Interpretation A
Cameron Boyer , 4th place
Dianne Doris Arnold, 4th place

Duo Interpretation B
Aileen Camille Dimaano , 4th place
Jillian Cyril Salcedo, 4th place

Readers Forum Masters A
Cameron Boyer, 3rd place

Readers Forum Masters C
Mycah Klerang Yobech, 1st place
Claudilyn Lacbayo, 4th place

Readers Forum Masters D
Veeny France Revilla, 1st place
Yasmin Angela Marcelo, 2nd place

Readers Forum Masters E
Kenichi Luke Shirata, 2nd place
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 5th place

Readers Forum B
Franchesca Dalusung, 2nd place

Impromptu Speaking A
Dianne Doris Arnold, 2nd place
Art Matthew Mamaril, 3rd place
Catrina Jean Pantaleon, 4th place

Impromptu Speaking A
James Matthew Marasigan, 2nd place
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 4th place
Alyssa Jean Pantaleon, 5th place

Teachers/Coaches
Melissa Harper, K4/5
Leah Garfil, 1st Grade
Kelly Dawe, 2nd Grade
Estrella Samonte, 3rd Grade
Maricel Hoffa, 4th Grade
Esther Manzano, 5th Grade

GCA PGFC Coordinator:
Esther Manzano
Discipline Officer: Heather Linday
Principal: Marsha Owens

GCA PGFC Volunteer Judges
Parent Volunteer: Mark Birmingham
NFL Student Judges: Cristine Cristobal, Kamille De Leon, Ashlee Das, Krisvel Eugenio, Maria Esmero, Darlene Barcelon

Life & Style

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero and Lis Swain work on their novels at Coffee Care on Capital Hill.

999,226 words

Writers on Saipan and in Guam took the challenge to write novels in November and officially wrote 999,226 words of fiction! Twenty-six writers from the "Elsewhere::Micronesia" region participated in National Novel Writing Month, a worldwide challenge hosted by the Office of Letters and Light in Oakland, California.

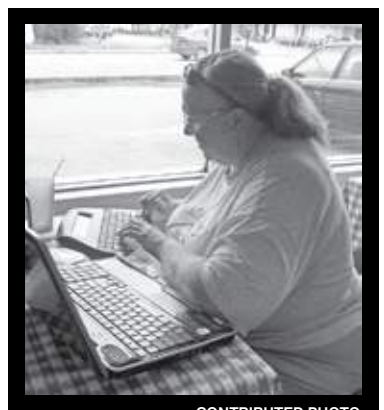
As promoted on its Web site, **"National Novel Writing Month** is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to novel writing. Participants begin writing November 1. The goal is to write a 175-page (50,000-word) novel by midnight, November 30." That's a real challenge for any writer.

Of the 26 writers here taking the challenge, 14 actually crossed the finish line. The youngest winner was "samwriterchick" from Guam, who joined as a 13-year-old and wrote 50,116 words. Other student winners included Saipan Southern High School students Roseanna Sablan (50,211) and Allison Madamba (51,015). Valiant efforts were made by SSHS student Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero (27, 723 words) and Guam college student "Twerksie" (13,053). On a side note, elementary school students from Brilliant Star School and Kagman Elementary School participated in the Young Writers Program, but their word counts are not included in this total.

The challenge seemed easy for some area writers. Leo Babauta, father of six and professional writer on Guam, wrote the most words in the Elsewhere::Micronesia region, writing a total of 108,754 words. He had participated and won once before, but set a personal goal of 100,000 words as a bigger challenge. "Ekatlyte," another Guam writer and, coincidentally a mother of six, wrote the second most words (107,139). Third place in the total words written went to Saipan writer Jonathan Ulrich (92,855), a teacher at Kagman Elementary School.

Other writers who won found the challenge more difficult. Guam writer Shannon Giel, who participates as "Sea Phoenix," had taken the novel writing challenge before, without success. "I tried participating last year and fell glaringly short at about 6k words, before giving up," she said. This year, she made the goal (52,594) and attributed her better performance to "the higher level of group participation...as well as the wonderful software... recommended."

Guam writer "applejuicebri" also won (50,262), but said he was exhausted two weeks into the monthlong challenge. "My family was supportive, even though I don't think they fully understood what was driving me to sit on the couch in the living room at all hours of the night with my brow furrowed and fingers wearing themselves down to bloody nubs," Applejuicebri said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Using two keyboards, Angie Wheat works double time at Bobby Cadillac's to meet the deadline.

This was the second year that Micronesia had an official region participating in NaNoWriMo, as the National Novel Writing Month is called. Last year, the region had only two official winners, both of whom participated and won again this year: Joe Race (50,185) and Jane Mack (53,358). Jane Mack also acts as the Municipal Liaison for the region, sending out pep talks, moderating the regional online forum, and setting up write-ins.

"I loved the participation of so many writers this year," Mack said. "When you write, you're alone, in a world built in your mind. It's a great process, but it's difficult to share the excitement and joy of writing. That's why NaNoWriMo is such a wonderful experience, because so many other people are doing exactly what you are doing, but each individually. It's something like being a two-year-old engaged in parallel play!"

There was a lot of writing parallel play around the world this past November! The 26 writers from Saipan and Guam joined 167,330 writers from around the world who signed up for the challenge. Those who actually participated wrote a collective 2,147,483,647 words (yes that more than two billion words!).

What will become of all those novels? This is the eleventh year that NaNoWriMo has conducted the challenge, and each year the participation level has grown. Some past novelists have published their NaNo novels, including *New York Times* number one bestseller, Sara Gruen, who wrote *Water For Elephants*; Jon F. Merz who wrote *The Destructor* (one of his Lawson Vampire novels); and *Times* and *USA Today* bestseller Lani Diane Rich, who wrote the romantic comedies *Maybe Baby* and *Wish You Were Here*, and women's fiction *Time Off For Good Behavior.*

As for the novels written by our area writers, the plans are varied. "I think it will join my four other novels and three play scripts in a drawer," Jane Mack said, "until I have time to edit, which may be in about 10 years, if I ever retire." Lis Swain, a teacher at Saipan's Brilliant Star School and a first time winner (50,083), is looking forward to immediately editing her novel.

"In the next few months, I plan to tackle editing and rewriting. As a teacher, it's a good lesson for me to put everything I try to teach my students about writing into practice. My students have become my best editors! Eventually I'd love to get it published, but I'm taking it one step at a time," she said.

Joe Race plans to edit and self-publish, as he has done with his prior NaNo novel and his other non-NaNo novels. The Guam writers are still planning their TGIO (thank goodness it's over) party, so plans for their novels are on hold!

The next writing challenge: Script Frenzy in April. Who wants to write a movie script or stage play? ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, Allison Madamba, Roseanna Sablan, Jane Mack, and Jonathan Ulrich show off their novels during the TGIO party.

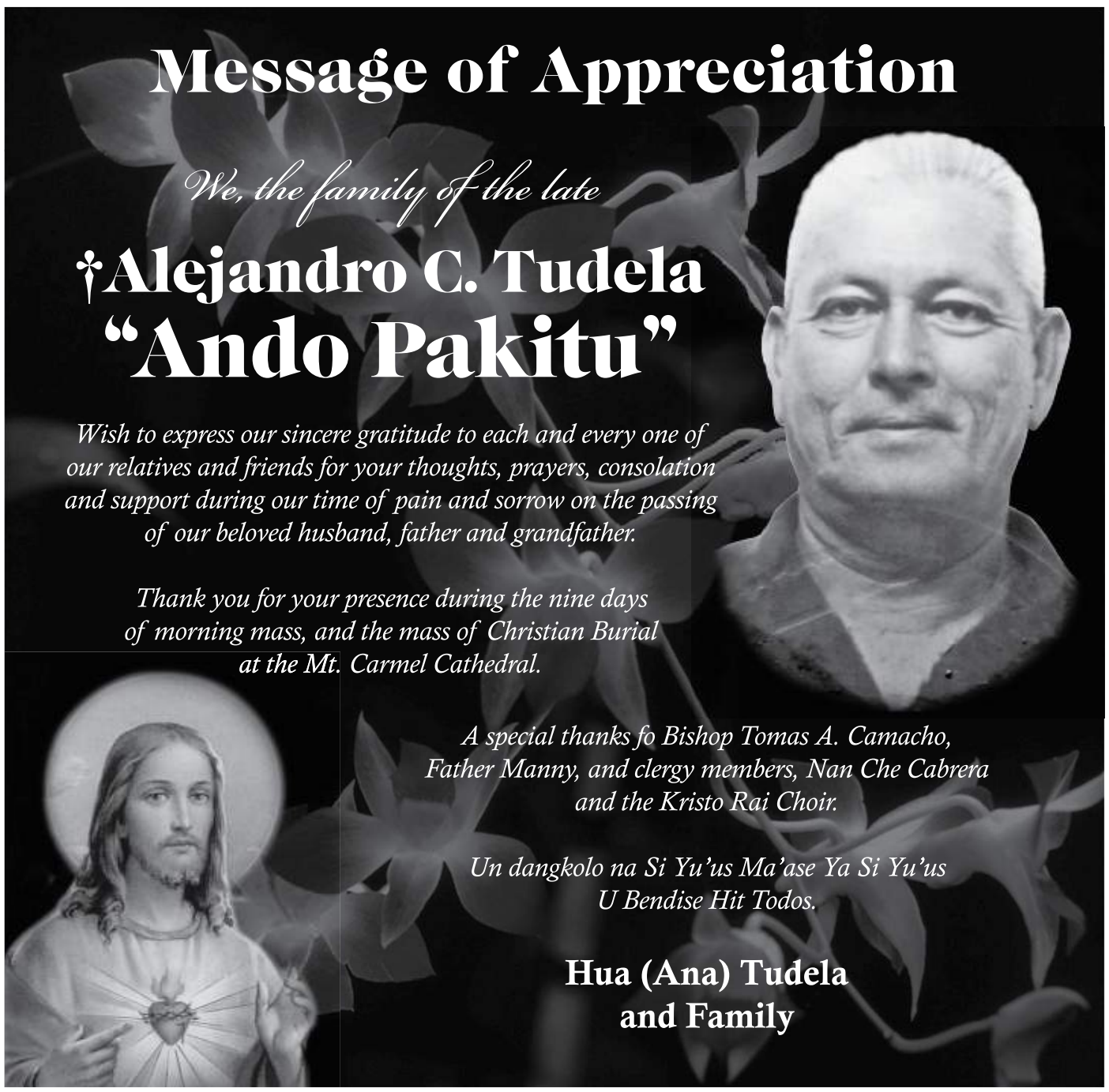
CHALLENGE RESULTS AND STATS:

GUAM WRITERS:
Leo Babauta: 108,754
Ekatlyte: 107,139
Cjcariño: 57,230
Shannon Biel: 52,594
Applejuicebri: 50,252
Samwriterchick: 50,116
Marie/disaster: 50,074
Itchy671: 17,366
Twerksie: 13,053
Maddiemaer: 3,842
Pandaluv: 1,638
Tenshi-bozu: 1,180
T_Tell: 529

SAIPAN WRITERS:
Jonathan Ulrich: 92,855
Jane Mack: 53,358
Allison Madamba: 51,015
Roseanna Sablan: 50,211
Joe Race: 50,185
Lis Swain: 50,083
Angie Wheat: 48,519
Anna Rose DLG: 27,723
Darkangel: 1,969
Matt Wheat: 1,762

Undisclosed location, but in the region:
Aomiles: 50,329
Rice: 7,003
Ahimes: 2,084
Cl832: 001 (yes, just one word!)

Regional writers wrote an average of 38,431 words each; their average word count came in 25th place out of 484 regions participating around the world. Nearly 54% of those who accepted the challenge crossed the finish line and wrote novels of 50,000 words or more.


Message of Appreciation
We, the family of the late
†Alejandro C. Tudela
"Ando Pakitu"
Wish to express our sincere gratitude to each and every one of our relatives and friends for your thoughts, prayers, consolation and support during our time of pain and sorrow on the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather.
Thank you for your presence during the nine days of morning mass, and the mass of Christian Burial at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
A special thanks fo Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Father Manny, and clergy members, Nan Che Cabrera and the Kristo Rai Choir.
Un dangkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ya Si Yu'us U Bendise Hit Todos.
Hua (Ana) Tudela and Family

In Celebration of Her New Life

Beata Duenas Mendiola

"Nanan Beata"

September 18, 1918—December 04, 2009

of Rota, was called home by our Heavenly Father at the age of 91

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Husband: Thomas Camacho Mendiola

Parents: Juana Pangelinan Hocog & Joaquin Flores Duenas

Brothers & Sisters:
Beda H. Mundo, Dimas H. Hocog, Maria D. Atalig, Teresa D. Manglona, Joaquin H. Duenas and Vicente H. Duenas

In-Laws: Rodolfo A. Mundo, Rafael H. Atalig, Sabina M./Carlos S. Calvo, Maria C. Mendiola, Pedro C./Meriam W. Mendiola, Filipe C./Joaquina M. Mendiola, Felix C./Heronima T. Mendiola, Baldomero C. Mendiola, Pedro C. Mendiola, and Ana C. Mendiola

She will be greatly missed and remembered in the hearts of her:

Children: Lorenza M./†Edward Garcia & Children
Fidel A. /Fermina S Mendiola & Children
Alejo A. /Flor Mendiola (†Andrea M. Mendiola) & Children
Daniel D. /Gina M. Sasakura & Children
Ana O. Mendiola & Children
Diego D. /Angie P. Mendiola & Children
Thomas D. /Cathy S. Mendiola & Children

Reared Grandson: Fidel S. Mendiola Jr. & †Alfred S. Mendiola

In-Laws: Lucia Duenas, Rosa M. Atalig and Maria C. Mendiola

Numerous Great and Great-great Grandchildren, Cousins, Nieces, and Nephews.

Daily Mass:

San Francisco de Borja — 6:00 a.m. • San Isidro — 7:00 p.m.

Nightly Rosary is being said at San Francisco de Borja Church, Rota at 7:30 pm

Last Respects will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at San Francisco de Borja Church, Rota beginning at 7:30 am and concluding 10:30 am
Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 am. Interment will follow at San Jose Cemetery, Rota.

Richard Wright wins contentious Turner Prize

LONDON (AP)—A Scotland-based painter known for destroying his large-scale wall murals after they have been exhibited won Britain's best-known art award, the Turner Prize, on Monday.

Richard Wright said he was surprised he beat three other finalists to win the annual 25,000 pound ($40,000) prize, which was announced at London's Tate Britain gallery. The award was presented by British poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy.

"I'm shocked—is there another kind of reaction?" the artist said. "I wasn't expecting it, not at all."

Wright is known for painting intricate, large-scale patterns on walls or ceilings, as well as for his insistence that his work be destroyed after the exhibitions end. He said he gave up painting on canvas because those paintings were "rubbish" and didn't represent who he was.

Judges said they admired the "profound originality and beauty" of Wright's work, saying his paintings were rooted in the fine art tradition yet "radically conceptual in impact."

"Wright uses elaborate and labour-intensive methods to create transient works that respond directly to the architecture and context of a space," they said in a statement released by Tate Britain. "His works come alive as they are experienced by the viewer."

Wright

It was 49-year-old Wright's last chance to win the Turner, awarded annually to a British artist under 50. The prize, which always inspires fierce public debate about the nature of art, is named after 19th-century landscape painter J.M.W. Turner and was established in 1984.

Wright said he sometimes felt a sense of loss at the destruction of his work.

"It is sad but it's also a relief," he said. "Other people make things that don't survive. If you are a dustman or a reporter you do something that is consumed and passes."

Wright beat bookie favorite Roger Hiorns, 34, who transformed a derelict London flat with thousands of liters (gallons) of crystal copper sulfate. The work, "Seizure," drew thousands of art fans to a run-down housing estate in south London earlier this year.

The shortlist also includes London-based Enrico David, 43, an Italian-born artist who creates installations, sculptures and drawings inspired by everything from traditional crafts to 20th-century surrealism, and Lucy Skaer, 34, who works in London and Glasgow and creates drawings, sculptures and films.

Past winners include "Brit Art" upstarts such as transvestite potter Grayson Perry and shark pickler Damien Hirst.

Porn stars gather for karaoke nights in LA

By JOHN ROGERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP
From left, adult entertainer and hostess Nicki Hunter flirts with adult entertainers Suzanne Schevelle and Angela Aspen in the audience during Porn Star Karaoke at Sardo's Grill and Lounge in Burbank, Calif. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009.

BURBANK, California (AP)—Even the most ardent fans of porn star Julie Meadows are unlikely, it seems safe to say, to have ever seen her like this.

But there she is, the star of "Alice in Fetishland" and more than 200 other hardcore sex films, standing on a stage, dressed demurely in jeans, matching vest and white top, her blonde hair piled up under a fetching white watchman's cap, belting out an enthusiastic but entirely PG-rated version of that old garage-band rock classic "Wild Thing."

"Wild Thing I think I love you—BUT I WANT TO KNOW FOR SURE!" Meadows growls, as fellow porn star Nicki Hunter, in a white mini-dress, leaps on stage to harmonize. A moment later, when Meadows breaks into some impressive air-guitar moves, the crowd howls its approval.

Don't get the wrong idea. This isn't the opening scene for a porn video. It's simply Porn Star Karaoke Night at Sardo's Grill & Lounge, a friendly little hole-in-the-wall place that six nights out of the week is just another karaoke pub.

The club, in fact, offers Family Fridays when parents can bring their children. On Mondays, people play Rock Band 2 while they sing. On Wednesdays there are trivia games.

But on Tuesday nights, when just about everybody else is getting ready for bed in this quiet suburb on the edge of Los Angeles, Sardo's becomes the place to be for anyone who has ever been, or who wants to be, connected with the porn business.

Between beery versions of popular songs, this is where the deals that lead to films like "Video Voyeur" often get made.

"Anytime you come to L.A. you've got to spend Tuesday night at Sardo's. That's where you meet the directors and the producers," says Tony Batman, who travels the country putting on Miss Nude contests, strip shows and exotic showcases for would-be stars.

Sonny Malone, one of the busiest film editors in the business, holds court most every week at a table reserved for her near the stage, where she hands out business cards and talks shop.

"I've made a hundred deals here," says Malone, a friendly, talkative woman of 45 who on a recent night is surrounded by two young women friends who have come to see what all the hoopla is about.

"They're not in the industry! Don't hit on them!" she warns any director or producer who approaches.

And there's also the usual amount of water-cooler talk.

Magdalene St. Michaels, the 52-year-old star recently nominated for a MILF/Cougar award (the industry's top honor for older actresses), is getting opinions on the recent full-page ad promoting herself in Adult Video News.

"Very impressive," veteran porn writer Tod Hunter tells her as he checks out the photo.

Just outside the front door, Robert Billman (Captain Bob to those who saw him in films such as "Nurse Sadie" and "Pleasureville") is lobbying people to sign his petitions to put measures on the California ballot legalizing marijuana, preventing gerrymandering of legislative districts and giving consumers a break on car insurance.

As the porn stars schmooze, a 52-year-old former librarian who goes by the name Seymour Satin helps keep things under control from behind the curtain.

Satin, the bar's owner, tells Captain Bob sharply, "We don't allow that in here" when he agrees to autograph a female fan's bare backside.

Satin was the corporate librarian for ARCO in 2000 when the oil company was taken over by BP. The new owner offered him a job in its Naperville, Illinois, office, but he decided to stay in California and buy a bar instead. Soon he had turned it into a karaoke club.

Porn Star Tuesdays began accidentally in 2003 when a handful of entertainers, after a long day on the set, dropped by to unwind. They had so much fun they came back the next week and brought their friends. Six years later, they are still coming back, and attracting a following of fans that usually has the bar filled to capacity.

But what about the all important question? Can porn stars really sing?

In most cases it becomes clear within just a few off-key notes that these people are lucky they have sex films to fall back on. But every now and then someone who really can sing gets up in front of the microphone. Nicki Hunter, for example, has a surprisingly sweet soprano voice.

"I actually did do some recordings when I was younger but everyone told me in music you've got to be willing to starve for your art. So I said, 'No, I'll go into porn instead and make some money,'" says the married mother-of-two sons.

Meadows, who is as shy and reserved offstage as Hunter is outgoing, is one of the few in the business to have actually appeared in a musical. It was an X-rated version of George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion."

St. Michaels, whose husband works in the music business, also can sing, although she'll usually hold back until later in the evening, after she's worked up the nerve to do her best Peggy Lee impression.

"You would think it would be easy for me to sing, but my perfectionism kicks in and I get scared that I won't be good," she explains. "The first time I got up to sing I was more nervous than the first time I took my clothes off and had sex in front of people."

Shakira shakes up Oxford Union with address

LONDON (AP)—Michael Jackson and Mother Teresa. Stephen Hawking and the Dalai Lama. And now Shakira.

The Colombian pop singer—famous for hits like "Hips Don't Lie" and "Whenever, Wherever"—joined a diverse group of luminaries when she addressed the Oxford Union on Monday.

The 32-year-old, who is also a UNICEF ambassador, used her speech to hundreds of Oxford students to stress her belief in education for all. Many students had waited in the rain to see the pop star's appearance at the university's famous debating society.

"I was born in Colombia, growing up in the developing world where education is perceived as a luxury and not as a birthright," she said.

The pop star runs a charity that builds schools for poor children in Colombia. Shakira said her singing career has helped her campaign.

"I think those two paths have been so parallel in my life," she said. "My career gives me an enormous opportunity to communicate issues that I believe strongly should be communicated."

Oxford Union spokesman Conan McKenzie said Shakira's philanthropy was one reason to invite her, but added that "she's an immensely popular singer with a large fan base among Oxford students. And the Oxford Union has a tradition of inviting a wide variety of speakers."

AP
In this Dec. 4, 2006 file photo, Canadian pop singer Daniel Powter smiles during a promotional event in Taipei, Taiwan.

Billboard names Powter One-Hit Wonder of Decade

NEW YORK (AP)—As far as one-hit wonders go, Daniel Powter is king of them all—for this decade, at least.

Powter, whose hit "Bad Day" reigned on top of the Billboard pop charts for five weeks in 2006, was named as the decade's top one-hit wonder by Billboard.

The magazine describes one-hit wonders as acts whose second hit did not reach the top 25; they only included acts from 2000 to 2007, since someone from last year might just be taking a break.

No. 2 on their list is the Terror Squad for "Lean Back"; No. 3 is Crazy Town with "Butterfly"; No. 4 is MIMS with "This Is Why I'm Hot"; and No. 5 is D4L—remember them?—with "Laffy Taffy."

With familiarity, Letterman jokes about Woods

NEW YORK (AP)--David Letterman has dived right into material on Tiger Woods on the "Late Show," joking he wishes the golfer would stop asking him for advice.

Letterman kicked off his monologue Monday with the subject of Woods, even though the late night host is only weeks removed from his own scandal.

Letterman said, "Boy, it looks like that Tiger Woods is having some trouble, huh?"

In October, Letterman admitted to workplace affairs police say led to a blackmail plot. Woods last week admitted letting his family down with "transgressions" that became known following a Thanksgiving weekend car crash outside his Florida home.

Letterman asked the audience members to clap if they thought Woods was a "jerk." Letterman then asked them to clap if they thought he was a jerk. Some clapped for each.

Al Pacino set to play Shylock in NY's Central Park

In this Sept. 15, 2008 file photo, actor Al Pacino, poses during a photocall for the French premiere of his latest movie "Righteous Kill," in Paris.
AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Al Pacino meets William Shakespeare next summer in New York City's Central Park.

The 69-year-old Pacino will portray Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice," one of two offerings by the Public Theater's 2010 Shakespeare in the Park series, running June 9-Aug. 1.

Artist director Oskar Eustis (YOO'-stihs) says the series will also include "The Winter's Tale," which will alternate in performance with "Merchant." Among the actors who will appear in both plays: Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Jesse L. Martin, Lily Rabe, Ruben Santiago-Hudson and Max Wright. Pacino will only appear in "Merchant."

Daniel Sullivan will direct "The Merchant of Venice" and Michael Greif (GRYEFF) will direct "The Winter's Tale."

Joel, recovering from pill scare, feeling better

NEW YORK (AP) — A publicist for Alexa Ray Joel says the daughter of Billy Joel is feeling better two days after being hospitalized in New York for a possible overdose of pills.

Claire Mercuri says that the daughter of Joel and supermodel Christie Brinkley is with her family and looking forward to getting back on track.

She says the 23-year-old singer-songwriter thanks "everyone for their outpouring of love and support."

Mercuri didn't say where Joel was staying since her release from a Manhattan hospital. Her parents have separate homes in New York City and on Long Island.

Police received an emergency call Saturday saying Joel had taken several pills. Officials didn't know whether she had accidentally overdosed or attempted suicide.

Weezer cancels tour after bus crash in upstate NY

In this Monday, Sept. 21, 2009 file photo, Rivers Cuomo of Weezer performs as part of the "Guitar Hero 5 Fridays on Yahoo! Music" concert series, at The Roxy in West Hollywood, Calif.
AP

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Weezer has canceled the rest of its December tour after the lead singer was injured in a bus crash in New York.

Rivers Cuomo and band assistant Sarah Kim suffered minor injuries when the group's tour bus skidded on ice, struck a guide rail and slid into a ditch Sunday morning.

Cuomo and Kim were hospitalized after the accident in the upstate New York town of Glen. That's about 40 miles west of Albany. They were traveling to a show in Boston.

Cuomo's condition isn't clear.

A message on the band's Web site says Weezer is canceling the rest of its Raditude tour and will try to reschedule those dates.

Publicist Jim Merlis says he won't comment on the crash.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Domestic violence charge dismissed against Winans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A Nashville judge has dismissed a misdemeanor domestic violence charge against gospel singer BeBe Winans after determining he had seen a counselor as required by prosecutors. The 47-year-old Winans, of Nashville, had been accused of pushing his ex-wife to the ground Feb. 13 during an argument about their children. General Sessions Judge Gloria Dumas dismissed the charge Friday after the counselor reported Winans did not need treatment. In a statement Monday, Winans said, "To be exonerated of all charges shows the power of trusting in God, and is a wonderful Christmas gift for me and my children." Winans is a judge on BET's television show "Sunday Best." The four-time Grammy winner has recorded gospel albums with his sister CeCe.

Reality series 'Basketball Wives' set for VH1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A VH1 reality series that promises an inside look at the lives of NBA players' wives and girlfriends is set to air early next year. VHI said Monday that "Basketball Wives" will show the upside of the women's lives—big homes, designer clothes and jewelry—and the drawbacks, including worries about whether their husbands are being faithful on roadtrips. Shaquille O'Neal's wife, Shaunie, will be featured and is an executive producer. Others taking part are Eric Williams' wife, Jennifer, and Mesha O'Neal, married to Jermaine O'Neal. VHI executive Jeff Olde, in announcing the series, noted the public's fascination with the wives of star athletes. Tiger Woods' wife is in the spotlight now over his recent car accident and his alleged extramarital affairs. "Basketball Wives" debuts March 15.

'Family Ties' actor arrested after Colo. assault

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Police say a former cast member of the 1980s television show "Family Ties" has been arrested for investigation of assault in Colorado. Police said Monday that 28-year-old Brian Bonsall got into a fight at an apartment on Saturday and hit a friend with part of a broken wooden stool. Bonsall allegedly told officers he had been drinking and didn't remember what happened. Bonsall played Michael J. Fox's little brother Andy Keaton on the sitcom. He is being held in the Boulder County Jail and was due in court Wednesday. Jail records didn't indicate his lawyer's name. Authorities say Bonsall was sentenced to probation in 2007 for assaulting his girlfriend. He was later accused of probation violations. The former child actor lives in Westminster, Colo., about 20 miles south of Boulder.

Romania: Briton sentenced in filmmaker's death

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—A Romanian court has rejected the appeal of a British citizen convicted on manslaughter charges for causing a 2006 car accident that killed award-winning Romanian film director Cristian Nemescu. The Bucharest appeals court on Monday rejected the appeal by Ali Imran, confirming the 6-year-long prison sentence against him. Nemescu, 27, a sound engineer and a taxi driver died after a car driven by Imran plowed into their vehicle in Aug. 2006. Reports said Imran was traveling at least 140 kilometers (88 miles) per hour, more than double the speed limit, and that he ran a red light. Imran was reportedly unhurt. Nemescu's unfinished film "California Dreamin'" won an award at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

ABC says Sawyer's last 'GMA' broadcast Friday

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC's Diane Sawyer says goodbye to "Good Morning America" on this week after 2,881 shows—not that she's counting. Sawyer announced on Monday's show that her last day will be Friday. It will give her one week off before she switches to the evening, taking over as anchor of ABC's "World News" for the retiring Charles Gibson on Dec. 21. The "Good Morning America" stint was probably some 2,700 shows more than she expected. With the show in serious ratings trouble a decade ago, Sawyer and Gibson agreed to a temporary stint as co-anchors. Things went so well they agreed to stay on indefinitely, and Robin Roberts replaced Gibson when he went to "World News." The show was already in nostalgia mode on Monday, showing a clip of Sawyer driving a car and using red lights as mere suggestions, as colleague Chris Cuomo put it.

Wife is bewildered by man's pursuit of her 'family history'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Bud," and I have been married more than 50 years. It has been a great half-century. We have good jobs and a fantastic family.

A problem has arisen recently that I need advice about. When I met Bud, I wasn't a virgin. I wasn't promiscuous, but I did end several dates with a "grand finale." Bud knew about it and was OK with it then, and he's still OK with it now. But he keeps asking me to describe those dates down to the most intimate detail. He says they are part of our "family history," just like our school activities and other events with family and friends before we started going together. I'm not sure I can remember everything, but Bud wants to hear about those things I can recall. What do you think about this?

CAUGHT OFF GUARD

DEAR CAUGHT: I'd be fascinated to know why, after more than 50 years, your husband is suddenly pumping you for the information. Could he find the idea of you and another man titillating? To me, "family history" begins when a couple forms a family, not before.

If discussing the subject of your premarital sexual experiences makes you uncomfortable, then don't take the bait because if you do, I have a hunch your husband will never stop fishing.

DEAR ABBY: I work for a national package delivery company. It's nearing what we refer to as "peak season" (Christmas). We try our best to deliver the much-anticipated packages on time, but sometimes we are unable to find the addresses. If there are no names or numbers on the mailboxes or on the houses, we waste a lot of time trying to locate the right residence through the process of elimination.

What concerns us most is, if we—experienced delivery people—have problems finding a residence, we know an emergency vehicle will encounter the same problem. A few minutes' delay can result in a tragic outcome if an EMT is unable to find a house.

Please advise your readers to post their addresses clearly. If they do, it will help all of us to have a safer and happier holiday season.

SANTA'S HELPERS IN ALABAMA

DEAR SANTA'S HELPERS: Thanks for this important reminder. Readers, to ensure that Santa finds you—remember to have not only cookies and milk waiting by the fireplace, but also your address clearly visible so he can find you. And the same goes for the fire department, the police department and an ambulance if, heaven forbid, they should be needed.

DEAR ABBY: Would it be improper of me to write the owners of a house we are buying to thank them for selling it to us? My wife and I keep getting conflicting answers.

They have small children, so they're probably moving to a bigger place to accommodate their children. Selling us their house is allowing us the opportunity of starting a family like they did.

What do you think? Should we send it to them directly or to their real estate agent? We don't want to overstep our boundaries.

SOON-TO-BE HOMEOWNER IN PHILADELPHIA

DEAR SOON-TO-BE HOMEOWNER: There may be reasons the owners are selling the house that have nothing to do with the fact that their children are growing. While the idea of a thank-you note is sweet, it would be better to wait until the sale is complete and you have lived in it awhile before writing. If you still feel the same a few months after you're in, then by all means share your gratitude and have the note forwarded to them by their real estate agent.

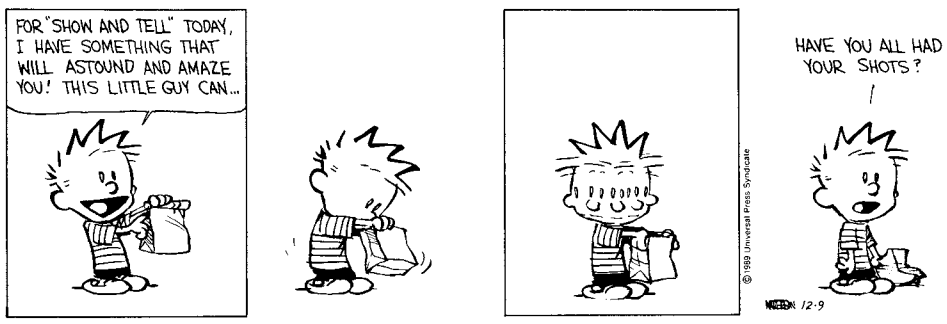
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

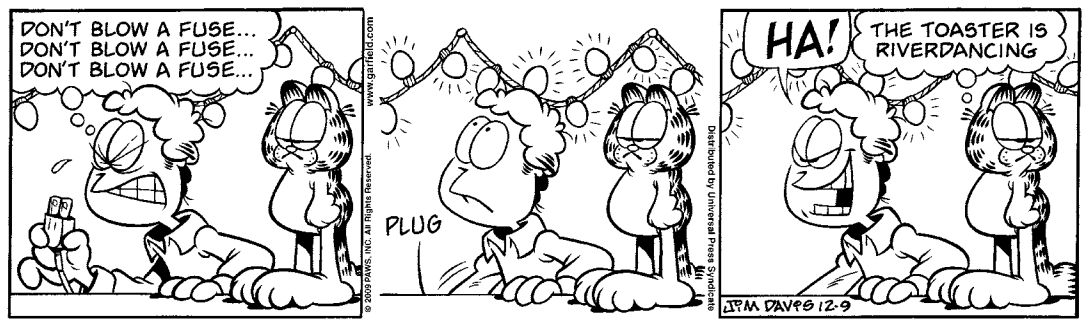
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


FOR "SHOW AND TELL" TODAY, I HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL ASTOUND AND AMAZE YOU! THIS LITTLE GUY CAN...
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
HAVE YOU ALL HAD YOUR SHOTS?
WATTERSON 12-9

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


DON'T BLOW A FUSE... DON'T BLOW A FUSE... DON'T BLOW A FUSE...
www.garfield.com
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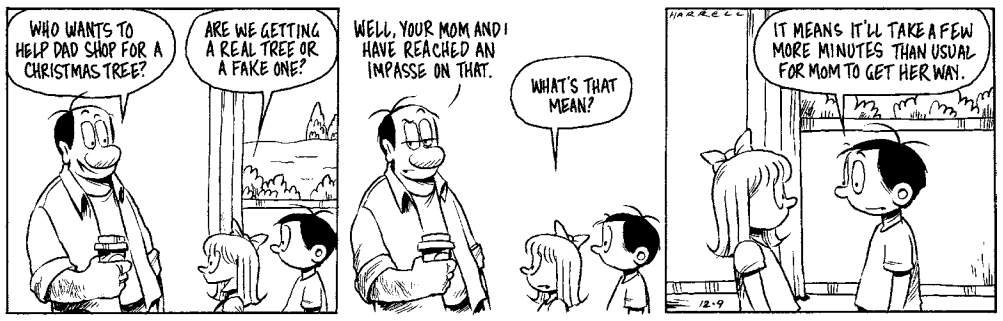
PLUG
HA!
THE TOASTER IS RIVERDANCING
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 12-9

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHO WANTS TO HELP DAD SHOP FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE?
ARE WE GETTING A REAL TREE OR A FAKE ONE?
WELL, YOUR MOM AND I HAVE REACHED AN IMPASSE ON THAT.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS IT'LL TAKE A FEW MORE MINUTES THAN USUAL FOR MOM TO GET HER WAY.
HARRELL
12-9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, THERE'S SOME CHRISTMAS CAROLERS OUTSIDE.
www.gocomics.com
12-9
Glenn McCoy
THANK GOODNESS! I WAS STARTING TO WORRY THAT PEOPLE HAD LOST THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS!
HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE THEM?
NOTHING. TURN OFF THE PORCH LIGHT.
© 2009 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

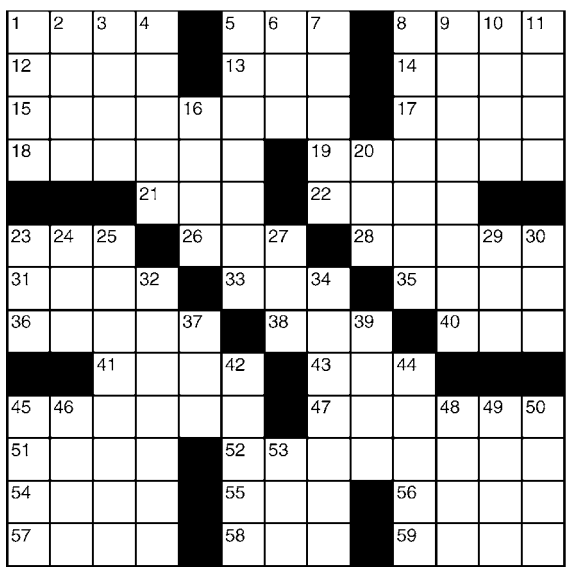
ACROSS
1 Lecture hall VIP
5 English channel?
8 Showroom sample
12 "The Music Man" locale
13 "Go, team!"
14 "Ars Amatoria" poet
15 From now on
17 Fix
18 It had a big part in the Bible
19 Adheres
21 Not Rep. or Dem.
22 "Critique of Pure Reason" author
23 Raw rock
26 Einstein's birthplace
28 Had the skills
31 Made on a loom
33 Addressee
35 Aforementioned
36 "Psycho" star Janet
38 Choose
40 Say it's okay
41 Stentorian
43 Suture
45 Less of a mess
47 Popular sport fish
51 Big fusses
52 Assess
54 Encounter
55 Melody
56 Young lice
57 Links stats
58 Citi Field player
59 Cavern, poetically

DOWN
1 Lakeside structure
2 Wander
3 As yet unpaid
4 Language of Iran
5 In general terms
6 Tavern
7 Payment method
8 Papa John's rival
9 Ultimately resulting
10 Chinese dynasty
11 Toteboard information
16 Restaurant list
20 Fond du —, Wis.
23 Hooter
24 Fish eggs
25 Villain
27 Cattle call?
29 Recline
30 Banned bug killer
32 The Me Generation?
34 Parvenu
37 Coloration
39 Blue shade
42 Reverie
44 Twisted
45 Pack down
46 Notion
48 Twosome
49 "Beetle Bailey" dog
50 Egg container?
53 Compete

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	A	R	P	■	A	R	F	■	D	O	M	E
O	R	E	O	■	B	E	E	■	I	D	E	A
D	I	S	P	R	O	V	E	■	S	O	T	S
S	A	T	■	E	M	S	■	S	P	R	A	Y
■	■	■	D	E	B	■	V	I	A	■	■	■
H	U	M	I	D	■	W	A	R	R	I	O	R
I	R	I	S	■	I	O	N	■	I	N	D	Y
S	I	X	P	A	C	K	■	A	T	S	E	A
■	■	■	L	I	E	■	S	T	Y	■	■	■
A	C	H	E	D	■	R	I	O	■	S	E	W
F	L	E	A	■	D	I	S	P	A	T	C	H
R	O	E	S	■	O	V	A	■	C	A	R	E
O	G	L	E	■	E	E	L	■	T	R	U	E

Yesterday's answer 12-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jakob Dylan, 40; Allison Smith, 40; Donny Osmond, 52; Beau Bridges, 68

Happy Birthday: Don't leave anything to chance this year. Overreacting to emotional issues or people will cause problems not easily solved. Look for new ways to make extra cash. Reinvent what you have to offer. A serious partnership can help you out financially. Your numbers are 5, 13, 17, 20, 34, 38, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may feel like being generous but, this time, you should ask everyone to pitch in and help rather than taking on a burden all by yourself. You can pull things together and oversee what needs to be done without compromising your personal and professional obligations. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Question your motives before you start telling everyone what you plan to do. A power struggle is the last thing you need when there is so much at stake. Pressure and progress will go hand-in-hand. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Being frugal is the answer to moving ahead. Doing something for less will attract attention and potential business. A partnership can form but it must be based on equality. Make romantic plans for two. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Calm down before you end up in a feud that ruins a relationship you cherish. Meddling or making false accusations may be tempting but, in the end, you will be the one blamed. Keep your personal and professional lives separate. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You should be making plans for the future that include a little fun and entertainment. Updating your look or improving your lifestyle will play out satisfactorily. The choices you make today don't have to exclude anything or anyone. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't put up with someone trying to make decisions for you. Take matters into your own hands and stand up for your concerns. Back away from anyone giving you an ultimatum. You can be the leader or the follower—the choice is yours. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep things simple if you want to avoid emotional turmoil. The less running about you have to do, the better your time will be spent. Don't limit what you can do because you don't want to ask for help. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Problems with elders in the family will mount if you don't clear up a misunderstanding. You cannot trust what you are told or base what you do on what others want. Personal information must be kept a secret or someone will use it against you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't make unpredictable moves because you are upset or don't like what someone else is doing. Let whatever situation is bothering you play out. You are in a much better position than you realize. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There is plenty to do before the year comes to a close with regard to your finances and your future plans. There will be an opportunity to lower your overhead if you are quick to respond to an offer made. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be eager to take action when it comes to a personal relationship. Don't let an emotional ploy stop you from following through with your plans. You have to satisfy your own needs before you can consider helping others. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Research will pay off. Ask questions if you don't fully understand what's expected of you. Before signing a contract or taking on a new challenge, consider if it's worth your while. Don't let uncertainty in an emotional relationship affect your decision. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, unpredictable and inquisitive. You are studious, serious-minded and have leadership capabilities. You are prone to overdo and overreact.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9	2	1	8	5		
	4						9	
5				4				3
9				5				2
4	8			9	2	6		7
7								5
6								8
	9			8			5	
		2	5	6	4	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	3	8	4	9	7	2	6
6	2	9	3	7	5	8	1	4
4	7	8	6	1	2	3	5	9
8	1	5	4	2	6	9	7	3
7	6	4	9	3	1	2	8	5
9	3	2	5	8	7	6	4	1
2	4	1	7	9	3	5	6	8
3	8	6	2	5	4	1	9	7
5	9	7	1	6	8	4	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ATLANTIS @ THE PALM DUBAI **Solution: 9 letters**

S	L	L	A	F	Y	R	E	V	O	C	S	I	D	B
E	A	S	Y	A	K	S	L	A	C	I	P	O	R	T
T	N	E	M	N	I	A	T	R	E	T	N	E	O	S
N	D	I	A	A	I	S	D	S	E	M	A	V	P	D
E	S	T	R	C	R	P	U	A	I	T	E	E	E	R
R	C	S	S	A	A	G	S	O	H	R	R	H	E	A
A	A	T	U	(E)	M	T	O	T	I	O	U	S	T	U
P	P	I	B	(M)	N	Y	A	R	L	R	T	O	E	G
S	E	N	M	(A)	M	K	S	P	P	A	U	D	T	E
N	G	G	E	(G)	I	I	X	T	U	R	I	X	H	F
A	R	E	R	N	T	E	T	R	E	L	O	O	U	I
R	E	R	G	H	T	I	A	F	S	R	T	P	U	L
T	M	R	E	E	G	N	U	L	P	E	Y	I	E	E
L	E	N	N	U	T	G	N	I	L	A	C	S	N	L
S	T	I	B	I	H	X	E	X	C	I	T	I	N	G

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Breathtaking, Catapulting, Discovery, Drop, East, Easy, Emerge, Entertainment, Exciting, Exhibits, Explore, Faith, Falls, Game, Hotel, Landscape, Lifeguards, Luxurious, Marine, Mystery, Plunge, Programs, Propel, Restaurant, Scaling, Slide, Spin, Stinger, Submerge, Summit, Tank, Theme, Tourists, Transparent, Tropicals, Tunnel

Yesterday's Answer: Nostrils

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Ma. Thelma Labarda Petitioner, vs. Onel Corpuz Respondent,	) FCD DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 09-0377) **SUMMONS**) **FOR**) **PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
Onel Corpuz

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 534 Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 19th day of November 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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All persons interested in this matter should contact: Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. as General Agent for Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
PO Box 500168,
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Telephone: 234-6267

All the remaining liabilities as of January 1, 2010 will be transferred to Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

O_ER_T_O_

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Classified Ads

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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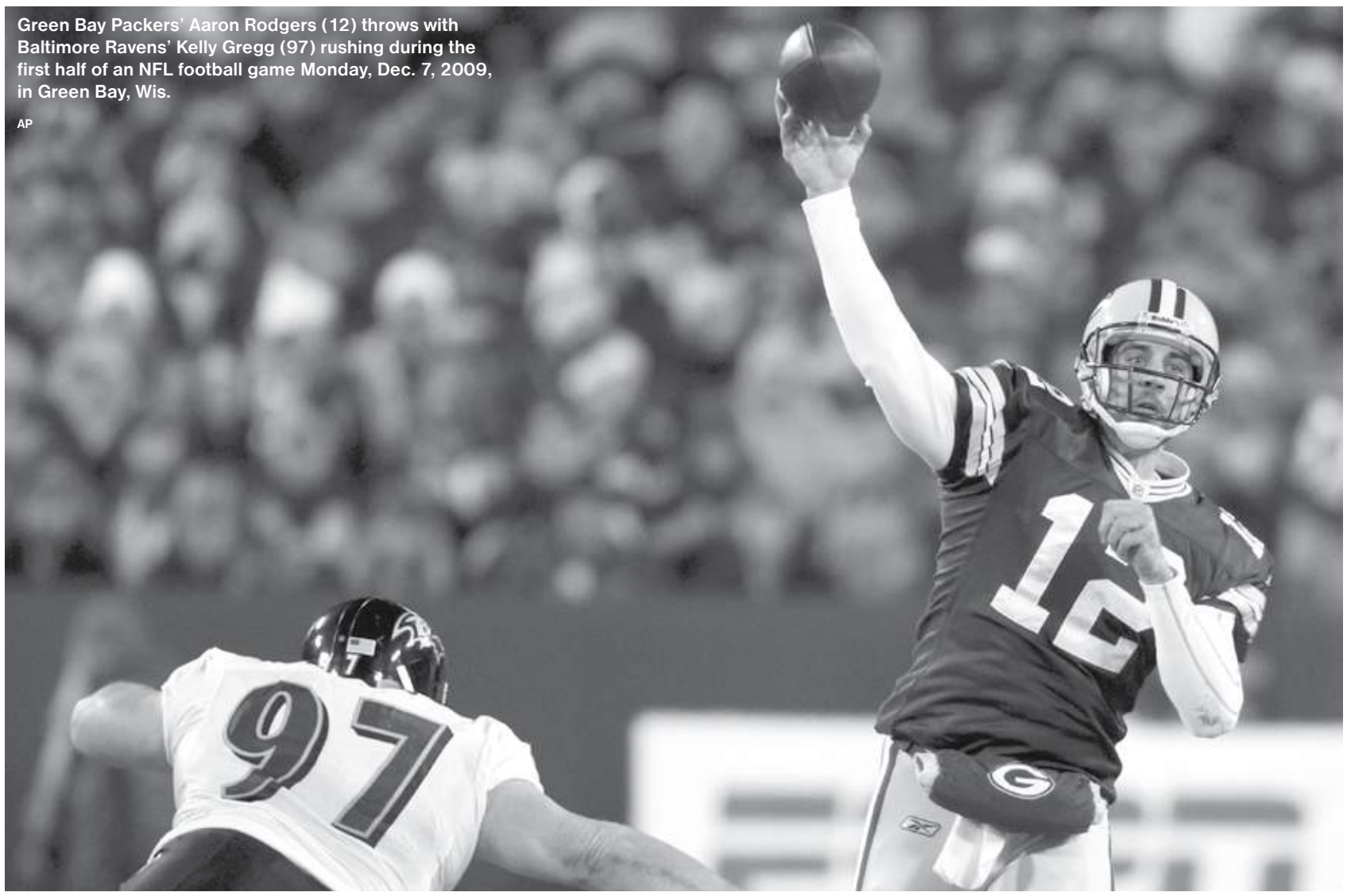
Rodgers throws 3 TDs as Packers beat Ravens



Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers (12) throws with Baltimore Ravens' Kelly Gregg (97) rushing during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, in Green Bay, Wis.

AP

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The standings say the Green Bay Packers are in good shape for the playoffs. But Monday night's victory over the Baltimore Ravens showed they still have some work to do to be taken seriously once they get there.

Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, including two to tight end Jermichael Finley, and the Packers beat the Ravens 27-14 in a penalty-filled game Monday night.

It was the fourth straight win for the Packers (8-4), solidifying their spot in the NFC wild-card race. But it certainly wasn't pretty.

The teams committed 23 penalties for 310 yards, tying for the second-highest yardage total in an NFL game.

The Ravens (6-6) struggled in coverage without star safety Ed Reed, who sat out with hip and ankle injuries.

Baltimore was called for five pass interference penalties, the most by a team in a single game since the New York Giants in 2001. The Packers were flagged four times for pass interference.

Rodgers was 26 of 40 for 263 yards with two interceptions, only his sixth and seventh of the season.

While Reed's replacement, Tom Zbikowski, came up with one of the interceptions, the Ravens struggled in coverage.

Baltimore's Joe Flacco was 15 of 36 for 137 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions. The Packers sacked him three times.

The win is a continuation of a significant momentum swing for the Packers, who were 4-4 after looking bad in back-to-back losses to Minnesota and Tampa Bay in early November but haven't lost since.

They've worked out some of their pass protection problems—Rodgers was sacked only once Monday night—and their defense appears to be getting more comfortable in the 3-4 scheme installed by defensive coordinator Dom Capers in the offseason.

Leading 17-0 at halftime and seemingly cruising, the Packers suddenly found themselves scrambling after a pair of turnovers, both involving Donald Driver, allowed Baltimore to get back in the game.

The Packers were driving on their first possession of the second half when Driver caught a pass in Ravens territory and fumbled as he turned to run upfield. Former Packers defensive back Frank Walker recovered, giving the ball back to the Ravens at their own 29.

Flacco drove the Ravens to the Green Bay 12, where he faced third-and-7. Given a free play after defensive lineman Johnny Jolly jumped offside, Flacco found Kelley Washington in the corner of the end zone for a touchdown. Washington tried to do a "Lambeau leap," but fans pushed him out of the stands.

The play was upheld on a replay review, cutting the Packers' lead to 17-7.

After the Packers nearly fumbled the ensuing kickoff, Rodgers watched as his first pass of the next possession bounced off Driver's leg and into the arms of linebacker Jarret Johnson, giving the ball back to Baltimore at the Green Bay 42.

Flacco went deep, drawing pass interference on Packers cornerback Tramon Williams. Willis McGahee scored on a 1-yard touchdown run two plays later, cutting the lead to 17-14 in the third quarter.

The Packers drove to the Baltimore 17 thanks in large part to a 15-yard face mask penalty by Ray Lewis on Greg Jennings, but the Packers were pushed back by a holding penalty on right tackle Mark Tauscher and the Packers had to settle for a field goal - but Mason Crosby missed from 38 yards.

Flacco then threw deep downfield to Derrick Mason, who caught the ball but was called for offensive pass interference against Charles Woodson. Mason compounded the problem by drawing an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty afterward, and the Ravens had to punt from their own 9-yard line.

The Packers got the ball back at the Baltimore 49, and Rodgers threw to Korey Hall and Driver for first downs before finding Finley for a 19-yard touchdown pass and a 24-14 lead with 10:31 remaining.

But Lardarius Webb ran the ensuing kickoff 68 yards—another special-teams meltdown for a Packers team prone to giving up big returns—and Tramon Williams was called for pass interference.

But Williams recovered two plays later, picking off Flacco in the end zone to give the ball back to the Packers and preserve the lead.

A.J. Hawk then picked off another Flacco pass, and the Packers drove for a 32-yard field goal by Crosby to seal the victory.

Trooper sought blood results after Tiger Woods crash

AP

In this Nov. 23, 2003 file photo, Tiger Woods, right, stands near his then-girlfriend Elin Nordegren, left, during the final day of the Presidents Cup 2003 Golf Tournament at the Fancourt Golf Estate in George, South Africa.

WINDERMERE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida trooper who suspected Tiger Woods was driving under the influence sought a subpoena for the golfer's blood results from the hospital he was taken to after crashing his SUV, but prosecutors rejected the petition for insufficient information, according to a police report released Monday.

A witness, who wasn't identified in the report, told trooper Joshua Evans that Woods had been drinking alcohol earlier. The same witness also said Woods had been prescribed two drugs, Ambien and Vicodin.

The report did not say who the witness was but added it was the same person who pulled Woods from the vehicle after the accident outside his home. Woods' wife, Elin, has told police that she used a golf club to smash the back windows of the Cadillac Escalade to help her husband out.

"Impairment of the driver is also suspected due to the careless driving that resulted in the traffic crash," Evans wrote in the report dated Nov. 30 that was released by the State Attorney General's office.

Woods' attorney, Mark NeJame, didn't return a phone call for comment.

The world's No. 1 golfer hit a hydrant and a tree around 2:25 a.m. on Nov. 27. The Florida Highway Patrol last week cited Woods for careless driving and fined him $164.

Another police report offered new details into the accident from the officer who first responded to the 911 call.

Woods was at first unresponsive, lying on the road covered in a blanket and resting his head on a pillow, according to the report from the Windermere Police Department. The officer, whose name was redacted from the report, said Woods tried to stand up before the officer told him to lie down for his safety. The officer used the pillow to immobilize the golfer's spine.

Woods was bleeding from cut lips but was breathing normally. His wife, Elin, was kneeling over him.

The sport utility vehicle's engine was still running, the front passenger door was jammed and both rear door windows were broken out. Two golf clubs were next to a golf cart, which also was in the road. The officer found $235 in the vehicle, according to the report, which was obtained through a public records request.

Florida Highway Patrol investigators arrived after Woods had been taken to a hospital, the report said, explaining why they were unable to interview him at the accident site. In the days that followed, investigators tried three times to interview Woods, but he refused to meet with them.

The accident—and Woods' refusal to answer questions about it—fueled speculation about a possible dispute between the golfer and his wife.

Just days before the crash, a National Enquirer story alleged Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, Rachel Uchitel, who has denied it. After the crash, Us Weekly reported that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress named Jaimee Grubbs claims she had a 31-month affair with Woods.

Last week, Woods issued a statement saying he had let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart." He did not elaborate.

Nuggets spoil Iverson's return to Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Chauncey Billups and Denver ruined Allen Iverson's homecoming.

Billups scored 31 points and Carmelo Anthony had 14 to help the Nuggets spoil Iverson's return to Philadelphia with a 93-83 win over the 76ers on Monday night.

The Nuggets went on a 22-3 run over the third and fourth quarters to rally for their fourth straight win.

Iverson's rousing return did little to mask the fact that the Sixers are a lousy team. They've lost 10 straight, and only one-win New Jersey has a worse record in the Eastern Conference.

Iverson received a standing ovation when he left in the fourth quarter. He scored 11 points on 4-for-11 shooting and had six assists in 37 minutes.

Iverson bowed and kissed the logo at midcourt when he was introduced as the sellout crowd of 20,664 stood and roared in approval.

Andre Iguodala led the Sixers with 31 points, Thaddeus Young had 21 and Samuel Dalembert grabbed 15 rebounds.

But this night for the Sixers was all about Iverson in his first game with the team since he was traded in 2006.

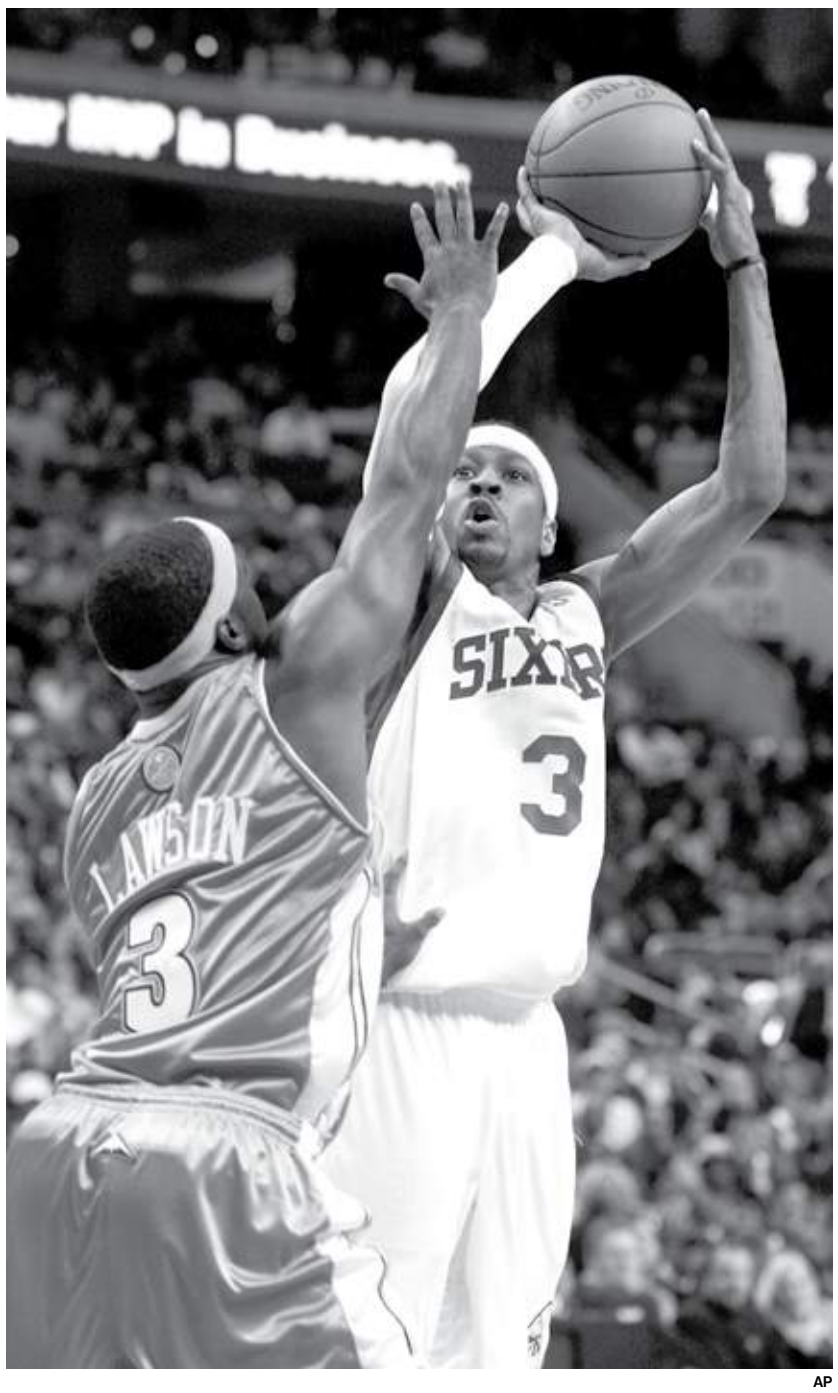
Iverson missed his first shot, a makable layup early in the first quarter. His first points came off a 4-footer he tossed up off a Dalembert miss.

Energized by the emotional pregame show, the 76ers played one of their strongest quarters of the season. Iguodala, who bristled at the end of Iverson's first tenure at being labeled "AI2," scored 14 points to show this was still his team.

It's still Iverson's crowd.

The building hummed every time Iverson touched the ball, and each basket was cheered as if it were a playoff winner.

Iverson played sparingly in his three-game stint with Memphis and feared he'd be out of game shape for his debut. He played all but 1 second of the first quarter and sat out in the second half mostly because of three fouls by the middle of the third quarter.



AP
Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson, right, gets a shot past Denver Nuggets' Ty Lawson in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Backed by 18 points from Iguodala and 10 from Thaddeus Young, the Sixers led 44-41 at the break.

They stretched that lead to nine when Iverson tossed a floater toward the basket that Dalembert slammed in for the alley-oop and had the Sixers feeling like their losing streak would be history.

Instead, only their lead evaporated.

Billups, traded from Detroit in last year's Iverson deal, showed why Denver was so eager to make the move. He sank a pair of 3s and worked his way to the free-throw line to score 13 points in the quarter and whittle the deficit to three.

Iverson was helpless in the fourth. Smith sank a pair of free throws to give Denver its first lead of the game, 67-65.

Billups and Smith each hit a 3 during a staggering 22-3 run that let the Nuggets take control of the game.

Billups nailed a late 3 for an 89-77 lead that sent the fans heading toward the exits.

The pregame show was worth the price of admission.

Iverson pulled in to the player's parking lot at 5:55 p.m., waving to fans who waited in the cold for a glimpse of one of the most polarizing athletes in Philadelphia's deep sports history.

He hit the court for warmups to the sound of fans screaming his name and holding "Welcome Home" signs. He took passes from his former 76ers backcourt teammate Aaron McKie, now an assistant coach.

He hit shot after shot to the delight of the crowd and broke out in a wide smile as they erupted in cheers.

Iverson always considered Philly home and dreamed of a return to the team he led to the 2001 NBA finals.

He just pictured a different outcome.

Knicks 93, Trail Blazers 84

At New York, Larry Hughes scored 21 points and David Lee had 17 points and 10 rebounds as New York won its season-high third straight.

Danilo Gallinari and Wilson Chandler each added 14 points as the Knicks won for the fourth time in five games.

Brandon Roy scored 27 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the injury-depleted Trail Blazers, who lost center Greg Oden to season-ending surgery Sunday.

Thunder 104, Warriors 88

At Oklahoma, City, Kevin Durant scored 28 points and rookie James Harden added a career-high 26 as Oklahoma City capitalized on the ejection of Golden State's Corey Maggette.

The Thunder led by one when Maggette drew two technical fouls for arguing with official Derek Richardson late in the third quarter. Between Maggette's ejection and the end of the third quarter, the Thunder outscored Golden State 16-5.

Monta Ellis led the Warriors with 31 points but committed nine turnovers.

Jazz 104, Spurs 101

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams recovered after missing his first six shots and scored 17 points for Utah, including a go-ahead jump shot with 22 seconds left.

Williams added 11 assists and Carlos Boozer had 27 points, seven rebounds and five assists for the Jazz, who guaranteed their first series win over the Spurs in 12 years with their third win over San Antonio this season.

Matt Bonner scored a career-high 28 for the Spurs.

Much talk, little action as winter meetings open

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—In a town known for fast moves around the speedway, baseball's wheelers and dealers were slowly mulling their options at the winter meetings.

Roy Halladay, Curtis Granderson and Dan Uggla were some of the big names being dangled on the trade market as baseball's annual swapfest opened Monday. Toronto appeared to be moving quite deliberately in talks involving Halladay, the much-coveted 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner.

"Nothing's happened. If he comes to a team in our division, I would be interested. He's really good," Boston Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Detroit right-hander Edwin Jackson was another player who could be traded, but there were just two minor deals that actually were made in the first few hours of the four-day session.

Washington acquired right-handed reliever Brian Bruney from the New York Yankees for a player to be named and Texas obtained left-hander Clay Rapada from Detroit for a player to be named or cash.

At a hotel just a few miles from Indianapolis Motor Speedway, teams awaited the midnight deadline for free agents to accept arbitration offers from their former clubs. Of the 23 offered arbitration last week, only three accepted: Minnesota pitcher Carl Pavano, Atlanta reliever Rafael Soriano and Colorado reliever Rafael Betancourt.

Among other free agents, St. Louis and right-hander Brad Penny reached a tentative agreement on a $7.5 million, one-year contract, a deal that won't be completed until after the Cardinals approve the results of his physical Tuesday, a person familiar with the talks said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet final.

Detroit agreed to a $1.55 million, one-year contract with shortstop Adam Everett. Also, the Yankees said left-hander Andy Pettitte's representatives told them he wants to return for 2010. New York was prepared to make him an offer upward of $10 million, a baseball official familiar with the talks said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were ongoing.

"I've been told in the right circumstances he wants to pitch," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Cashman also acknowledged he was interested in right-hander Jason Marquis. The GM said he traveled to Indianapolis on Sunday on "Air Levinson"—the private plane of the pitcher's agents, Sam and Seth Levinson.

"Obviously, he's very successful—pitched in tough markets," Cashman said. "He's a New Yorker, so he's tough."

Cashman, who received his budget only last Friday, also must decide what offers to make to left fielder Johnny Damon and designated hitter Hideki Matsui, who like Pettitte became free agents. Matsui, the World Series MVP, wants to stay in the major leagues.

"I manage two Japanese players and it's fun," Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "I love it because all of a sudden when you get fired from the United States, you might have a chance to manage in Japan. You never know."

Jason Bay and Matt Holliday, the top two free-agent hitters, appear to have slow-moving markets. Given the recession, many teams are reluctant to spend top dollar for stars.

"We are not in that bidding at all," Braves manager Bobby Cox said.

Even the Yankees appear to be trying to reduce their $200 million-plus payroll. Cashman said one of the reasons he traded Bruney was that he was eligible for arbitration after making $1.25 million last season.

Still, other teams are wary of the financial might of the World Series champions.

"They have a couple of things that make life difficult for us: They have a lot of money and they have smart people running what they are doing," Francona said. "They are not going to go away. I hope they don't get better. But they are there, so we have to deal with them."

Boston agreed to a small deal with right-hander Scott Atchison, who spent the last two seasons with the Hanshin Tigers in Japan's Central League. Hanshin purchased the contract of outfielder Matt Murton from Colorado.

The New York Mets, coming off a dismal first season at Citi Field, have held numerous trade talks but weren't close to any deals.

Also, former agent Dennis Gilbert was at the hotel. Now a Chicago White Sox executive, he is among the bidders trying to purchase control of the Texas Rangers from current owner Tom Hicks. Gilbert said he hopes to find out whether his bid succeeds by a Dec. 15 deadline that's been set.

Source: Penny, Cardinals reach tentative deal

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Brad Penny's late-season pitch seems to have paid off.

Fresh from an impressive showing in the final month, Penny reached a tentative agreement with the St. Louis Cardinals on a $7.5 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on Monday night.

The deal is contingent on the Cardinals approving the results of the right-hander's physical, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet final.

The 31-year-old Penny recently turned down a one-year offer to stay with San Francisco. The two-time All-Star quickly drew interest from the NL Central champion Cardinals, facing the loss of free-agent pitchers Joel Pineiro, John Smoltz and Todd Wellemeyer.

Penny went a combined 11-9 with a 4.88 ERA in 30 starts for Boston and the Giants. He won a career-high 16 games in 2006 and 2007 with the Los Angeles Dodgers and was an All-Star both seasons. He was slowed by shoulder trouble in 2008.

The Red Sox signed Penny to a $5 million, one-year contract during the last offseason. He never found his rhythm with Boston and went 7-8 with a 5.61 ERA.

Penny went 1-6 in his last 11 starts for the Red Sox, and they cut him in late August. He joined the Giants, who were still in the wild-card race, on Aug. 31 and found his old form back in the National League.

Penny was 4-1 with a 2.59 ERA in six starts for San Francisco. He is 105-84 lifetime and won twice for Florida in its 2003 World Series victory over the Yankees.

The Cardinals won their division behind big years from aces Chris Carpenter and Adam Wainwright and a fine season from Pineiro. Smoltz made seven starts after being released by Boston and Wellemeyer made 21 starts during an injury-interrupted season.

Talalemoto lifts Young 670 Rollers to win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young 670 Rollers outclassed 670 Rollers II, 43-38, during their game in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Savali Talalemoto led Young 670 Rollers' fourth win, firing 17 points. He scored his team's last six points to secure the victory. Biff Baka also helped Young 670 Rollers' cause, finishing with 10 points.

Talalemoto had a slow start for Young 670 Rollers, as he was held to five points and two field goals. However, Baka was there to keep Young 670 Rollers in the first half, as he made six points to put the team ahead at halftime, 21-16.

670 Rollers II fell behind in the first half, as it had only Ryan Lisua making more than a field goal for the team. Lisua had eight markers in the first 20 minutes of play.

In the second half, Lisua struggled and was limited to a field goal, while Talalemoto began picking up the cudgels for Young 670 Rollers to lift his team to a five-point win.

Talalemoto scored back-to-back baskets to start the second half and Young 670 Rollers went on to draw contributions from five more players to keep the lead and the win.

670 Rollers II threatened a comeback in the closing minutes of the second half, but Talelemoto came to Young 670 Rollers' rescue, knocking down three straight baskets.

Young 670 Rollers 43 – Talalemoto 17, Baka 10, Deleon Guerrero 6, Norita 4, Cenir 2, Vertudez 2.

670 Rollers II 38 – Lisua 11, Palacios 10, Danas 5, Deleon Guerrero 4, Ogo 4, Metran 2.

Scoring by halves: 21-16, 43-38.

SMASHERS

From Page 28

bao teamed up with Cris Hilario in the mixed CC and they defeated the Sizzlers' Merlie Tolentino and Kanata Omori, 21-10, 21-13. In the women's BC doubles, Quiambao joined forces with Anna Alvarez and they topped Gigi Zapanta and Tolentino, 21-10, 21-16.

Paul Navarro also gave the Smashers two wins, as he and Marvin Pullan thwarted Ezekiel Macario and Omori in the men's BC doubles, 21-11, 21-17. Navarro then teamed up with Obet Aguilar in the men's BB and won via default over Keno San Pablo and Macario. The Smashers fifth win in the last day of the competition was courtesy of the tandem of Arago and Andreau Galvez, who edged Daniel Macario and Gary Bandoja, 21-18, 21-15.

Other members of the newly crowned champions are Jaja Samonte, Lucelle Lampera, and Raphael Zapanta.

There was a tie for second place between Katipuneros and TNT Bombers, who ended up with identical 27-17 records.

Katipuneros failed on their bid to gain the top spot in Day 6 when they bowed to the Air Benders, 3-4. Katipuneros bounced back and saved a runner-up finish when they settled an old score against the Air Benders in Day 7, 5-2. Katipuneros and Air Benders met twice as their other duel is an advantage set played before and after the single round-robin tournament.

TNT Bombers, who were in fourth place going into the last two days of the tournament, climbed to second after a big 6-1 win in Day 7. The Bombers had a sorry loss to the Sizzlers in Day 6, 3-4, but a five-point win over Star Aces allowed the former to tie Katipuneros for second place.

Erstwhile leader Air Bender was relegated to third place after closing out the tournament with a defeat at the hands of Katipuneros. The Sizzlers finished fifth with an 18-26 slate, while the Star Aces were last with their 16-28 mark.

2 NETTERS

From Page 28

Lee withdrew from the match in the second set due to stomach cramps. Minor was on top in the second set, 2-1, when the game was stopped.

Lopez also made a mark in the Tan Holdings Classic, beating event favorite Neghar Rastguiy in the girls' 14-and-under singles finals, 6-0, 6-2. Her victory in last month's netfest earned Lopez the NMASA Student Athlete of the Month.

Also gaining citations for their outstanding performance last month were Male Athlete of the Month Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Male Student Athlete of the Month Clay McCullough-Stearns.

Kabiriel was the top overall finisher in the 25th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Run, beating more than 80 runners. He completed the grueling 4.2-mile race in 40 minutes and 16 seconds, shattering his time of 41:00 last year when he placed runner-up to Eli Torgeson.

McCullough-Stearns got the nods of NMASA members after leading Whispering Palms to a pennant title and Final Four appearance in the junior high school division of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League.

Whispering Palms finished the regular season with a 15-1 record and defeated Seventh Day Adventist in the playoffs to advance to the semis. In the semifinals, Whispering Palms lost to eventual champion Grace Christian Academy. McCullough-Stearns' team saved third place after topping Marianas Baptist Academy in the consolation game.

At the awards ceremony, McCullough-Stearns was named MVP.

MANAGER

From Page 28

other bowlers who averaged over 200. I can't recall anyone making the masters before and several bowlers averaging over 200. With more preparation next time I think our bowlers can do even better," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The bowler who advanced to the elite men's masters Zapanta was referring to was Simon Manacop, while the two other bowlers who rolled an average of 200 or more pins were Zapanta's son Raymond and fellow former youth bowler Raymond Angeles.

For the record, Manacop finished 11th in the cut for the men's masters with an average of 218.61, while Angeles and Zapanta came away with norms of 206.83 and 202.89 pinfalls, respectively.

Zapanta said hands down the best player of the team was Manacop, who finished eighth place in the men's masters after averaging 214.25 pinfalls in the marathon 16-game finals.

"Of course Simon stood out the most and after the first block (eight games), I thought he would even do better in the next block. He did not get a lot of good breaks in the second block, he made good pocket shots but he only kept striking on one lane. Without being able to string strikes, its hard to bowl in the high 200s," he said.

Zapanta also took his hat off to members of the team, who not only took time out from their busy scheduled to represent the CNMI in the yearly event, but also dug deep into their pockets to fund their trip.

"I really like to give credit to our bowlers. They only have partial financial support—each of them has to pay $400 to cover expenses—plus they don't have the benefit of practicing on synthetic lanes but they were able to bowl some very high games," he said.

The Team CNMI manager also came home impressed with the caliber of players in the 2009 edition of the Asian Intercity Bowling Championships.

"I believe all three of our top bowlers have almost perfect games with just a spare in one frame. Also, they are competing with some national bowlers like those from Guam and Korea. The quality of bowlers in this tournament is very high because there are four perfect games. I don't remember any intercity tournament with more than one," he said.

Aside from Manacop, Angeles, and Raymond Zapanta, the CNMI team was also made up of Alex Castro, Kitz Barja, Percy Omechalang, Raphael Zapanta, Jared Gutierrez, and women keglers Emi Williams, Diane Camacho, Gloria Omechalang, and Elsa "Gigi" Zapanta.

The 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships was held from Nov. 21 to 27 at the Central Lanes of Tamuning.

ISLAND

From Page 28

round-tripper, putting Man Amigos in the driver's seat, 8-6.

Pitcher Craig Sanchez led off for Island Rebels and singled. He later reached home plate on Oscar's Sablan homer to tie the game, 8-all. Duenas batted next and singled. He then scored the winning run on Palacios' single.

Island Rebels tallied three homers, two from Oscar Sablan and one from Byron Kaipat. Oscar Sablan posted five RBIs, went 3-for-3 at the plate, and logged two runs.

6-Pack 20, Blazers 19

Also scoring a one-run win was 6-Pack, which slipped past the Blazers in an extra inning, 20-19.

Relief pitcher Blas Magofna made the game-winning hit as his single drove first baseman Mike Pangelinan home.

Earlier, bottom of the eighth leadoff batter Lucian George tied the game, 19-all, when Dan Repeki's single drove him home. Pangelinan batted second and advanced on a fielder's choice. With Pangelinan on third and Repeki on first base, Magofna stepped up to the plate and hit his target to finally end the game.

6-Pack forced an extra inning after a three-run bottom of the seventh.

George was perfect at the plate for 6-Pack, going 5-for-5, and tallied five runs, two doubles, one triple, and two RBIs.

Team Familia 21, Ramblers 14

In the third game, Team Familia bounced back from a debut loss with a 21-14 triumph over Ramblers.

Team Familia bowed to Man Amigos, 3-13, last week, but leaned on an 11-run bottom of the fourth to beat Ramblers.

Ramblers were still in control of the game after three and a half innings, 11-2, when Team Familia launched a rally at the bottom of the fourth. Eleven of the 12 sluggers on Team Familia's batting lineup made it home to put the team in the driver's seat, 13-11.

Team Familia hung on to the lead, as it allowed Ramblers to score only at top of the sixth inning while the former added eight more runs in the last two innings.

Right fielder Floyd Dela Cruz led Team Familia's come-from-behind win, going 2-for-3 at the plate and scoring two runs, including a two-run homer at the bottom of the fifth. Also nailing a homer for Team Familia in the fifth inning was third baseman Collin Reyes.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	16	4	.800	–
Toronto	9	13	.409	8
New York	7	15	.318	10
Philadelphia	5	16	.238	11 1/2
New Jersey	1	19	.050	15

Southeast Division

Orlando	16	4	.800	–
Atlanta	14	6	.700	2
Miami	11	9	.550	5
Charlotte	8	11	.421	7 1/2
Washington	7	12	.368	8 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	15	5	.750	–
Milwaukee	9	10	.474	5 1/2
Detroit	8	12	.400	7
Chicago	7	11	.389	7
Indiana	6	12	.333	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	14	7	.667	–
Houston	11	9	.550	2 1/2
San Antonio	9	9	.500	3 1/2
New Orleans	8	11	.421	5
Memphis	8	12	.400	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	16	5	.762	–
Utah	12	8	.600	3 1/2
Portland	13	9	.591	3 1/2
Oklahoma City	11	9	.550	4 1/2
Minnesota	3	17	.150	12 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	16	3	.842	–
Phoenix	15	6	.714	2
Sacramento	9	10	.474	7
L.A. Clippers	9	11	.450	7 1/2
Golden State	6	14	.300	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Denver 93, Philadelphia 83
New York 93, Portland 84
Oklahoma City 104, Golden State 88
Utah 104, San Antonio 101

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	20	209	172	608	30.4
Bryant, LAL	19	205	121	549	28.9
Durant, OKC	19	183	146	534	28.1
James, CLE	20	188	142	545	27.3
Wade, MIA	20	176	171	541	27.1
Nowitzki, DAL	21	196	153	561	26.7
Bosh, TOR	22	181	169	537	24.4
Ellis, GOL	19	181	90	463	24.4
Granger, IND	17	130	102	414	24.4
Johnson, ATL	20	167	69	429	21.5
Jennings, MIL	19	150	62	405	21.3
Boozer, UTA	19	160	78	398	20.9
Gay, MEM	19	150	76	390	20.5
Arenas, WAS	19	135	86	388	20.4
Roy, POR	21	146	109	428	20.4
Harrington, NYK	21	152	86	423	20.1
Evans, SAC	18	129	90	359	19.9
Williams, UTA	17	126	51	324	19.1
Stoudemire, PHX	21	150	100	400	19.0
Iguodala, PHL	20	135	84	379	19.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	122	189	.646
Perkins, BOS	92	143	.643
Gasol, MEM	105	171	.614
Oden, POR	92	152	.605
Hilario, DEN	110	184	.598
Paul, NOR	91	156	.583
Bynum, LAL	123	213	.577
Lee, NYK	157	274	.573
Horford, ATL	111	195	.569
Landry, HOU	123	217	.567

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Wallace, CHA	19	42	189	231	12.2
Bosh, TOR	22	88	179	267	12.1
Howard, ORL	20	76	166	242	12.1
Noah, CHI	18	73	139	212	11.8
Boozer, UTA	19	39	172	211	11.1
Camby, LAC	20	53	166	219	11.0
Haywood, WAS	19	86	120	206	10.8
Duncan, SAN	15	47	115	162	10.8
Okafor, NOR	19	61	132	193	10.2
Lee, NYK	21	49	161	210	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	21	234	11.1
Williams, UTA	17	169	9.9
Paul, NOR	11	107	9.7
Rondo, BOS	20	180	9.0
Kidd, DAL	21	185	8.8
James, CLE	20	167	8.4
Westbrook, OKC	19	134	7.1
B. Davis, LAC	20	137	6.9
Arenas, WAS	19	124	6.5
Calderon, TOR	22	140	6.4

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	5	0	.583	328	224
Miami	6	6	0	.500	278	296
N.Y. Jets	6	6	0	.500	249	208
Buffalo	4	8	0	.333	199	261

South

x-Indianapolis	12	0	0	1.000	331	201
Jacksonville	7	5	0	.583	225	273
Tennessee	5	7	0	.417	246	316
Houston	5	7	0	.417	277	266

North

Cincinnati	9	3	0	.750	254	187
Baltimore	6	6	0	.500	271	215
Pittsburgh	6	6	0	.500	272	231
Cleveland	1	11	0	.083	145	309

West

San Diego	9	3	0	.750	342	242
Denver	8	4	0	.667	240	202
Oakland	4	8	0	.333	142	282
Kansas City	3	9	0	.250	196	326

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	8	4	0	.667	279	213
Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	327	235
N.Y. Giants	7	5	0	.583	303	285
Washington	3	9	0	.250	200	238

South

x-New Orleans	12	0	0	1.000	440	251
Atlanta	6	6	0	.500	279	279
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	215	262
Tampa Bay	1	11	0	.083	187	330

North

Minnesota	10	2	0	.833	359	233
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	323	229
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	233	270
Detroit	2	10	0	.167	206	358

West

Arizona	8	4	0	.667	297	234
San Francisco	5	7	0	.417	245	233
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	243	267
St. Louis	1	11	0	.083	139	314

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Game
Green Bay 27, Baltimore 14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMBA STANDINGS (FINAL)

Magnum	29	15
Katipuneros	27	17
Bombers	27	17
Air Benders	26	18
Sizzlers	18	26
Star Aces	16	28

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Island Rebels	2	0
Team Fuegu	1	0
San Roque	1	0
Lancheros	1	0
Red Eye	1	0
Chura	1	0
Natibu	1	0
6-Pack	1	1
Ramblers	1	1
Man Amigos	1	1
Team Familia	1	1
G-Ballers	0	1
Berdax	0	1
Freedom Air Flyers	0	1
Blazers	0	1
Ur Balls	0	1
X-Terminators	0	1
Calikano-Falcons	0	1
Go For Broke	0	1
SaiPal	0	0
Hitz	0	0

2009 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Saipan Community School's boys U12 team pose with their championship trophy after beating Koblerville Elementary School in the finals of the 2009 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League on Saturday.

Dandan Elementary School's Lady Tottots and their coaches flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the girls U12 finals.

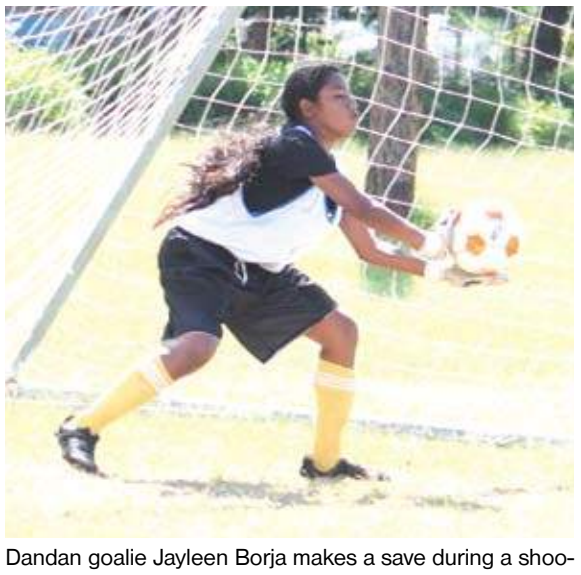
Koblerville Elementary School was relegated to a runner-up finish in the boys' U12 division.

Koblerville's Lady Umangs settled for a runner-up finish after losing to Dandan in a shootout.

SIS' boys U12 players pose with their fourth place trophy.

Dandan took the third place trophy in the boys U13 division.

SIS coach Becca Newman with a member of the Lady Geckos receive their fourth place trophy.



Dandan goalie Jayleen Borja makes a save during a shoo-tout against Koblerville.

Saipan Community School's Jehn Joyner tries to keep the ball in the field against a Koblerville defender.

The Koblerville goalie fails to save this ball, allowing Dandan to score three goals in the shootout.

Rodgers throws 3 TDs as Packers beat Ravens

The standings say the Green Bay Packers are in good shape for the playoffs. But Monday night's victory over the Baltimore Ravens showed they still have some work to do to be taken seriously once they get there. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Talalemoto lifts Young 670 Rollers to win

Young 670 Rollers outclassed 670 Rollers II, 43-38, during their game in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. 26

Smashers top badminton tournament

Manager proud of keglers' performance

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The manager of the CNMI delegation to the 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships held in Guam last month is mighty proud of the performance of his players.

Team manager Ross Zapanta said the 12-player group is without a doubt the best team the Commonwealth has ever sent in its close to decade-long participation in the tournament.

"For the last nine years of continued participation in this tournament, I believe this is the most promising group because we have a bowler who made it to the masters event and he even placed in the Top 10. We also had two

See MANAGER on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kitz Barja congratulates Simon Manacop, left, during the 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships held in Tamuning, Guam late last month.

The Magnum Smashers' Paul Navarro returns to TNT Bombers' Joel Algenio during their game in the 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the REM Centre.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Island Rebels take softball lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Island Rebels clinched the early lead in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League, following their 9-8 win over Man Amigos on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Extra hitter Oscar Sablan, who made two homers in Island Rebels' debut win over G-Ballers, 20-12, was at it again, blasting a two-run homer at the bottom of the last inning. Catcher Marvin Palacios also scored a crucial RBI, as his single drove Vince Duenas home and gave the Island Rebels a one-run lead.

Earlier at the top of the seventh inning, Peter Sablan blasted a three-run homer and J.J. Laniyo recorded a solo

See ISLAND on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

6-Pack catcher Frank Babauta signals to pitcher Blas Magofna during the top of the sixth inning of their game against the Blazers in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Magnum Smashers pulled off back-to-back wins over the weekend to steal the championship in the 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

Going into Saturday and Sunday's games, the Smashers held a 15-13 record and were only in third place in the team standings behind Day 1 to 5 leaders Air Benders (18-10) and Katipuneros (17-11).

However, the Ferdie Arago-captained Magnum was on target in its last two games to grab the No. 1 spot, finishing the tournament with a 29-15 record.

The Magnum Smashers first played on Saturday against the Star Aces and nailed a 5-2 victory. In the last day of the tournament, the Smashers clinched the championship when they cooled down the Sizzlers, 5-2.

Annette Quiambao handed the Smashers two of those five important wins to help the team seize the championship. Quiam-

See SMASHERS on Page 26

2 netters lead NMASA monthly awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Tennis' Thea Minor and Mikayla Lopez made it to the November's best list of Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, joining two other top performers from last month's tournaments.

Minor was named Female Athlete of the Month for a dominating performance in the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic. The 14-year-old Hopwood Junior High School student claimed three titles in the two-weekend tournament, winning the women's open singles and open doubles events and the girls' 18-and-under finals.

Minor crushed Laila Mailman in the women's open singles finals, 6-2, 6-2, and then teamed up with Cleofe Santos to take the women's open doubles tiara against the pair of Lydia Tan and Sally Lee. In the girls' 18-and-under division, Minor prevailed in the first set, 7-5, and secured the title when Vivian

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Lopez

McCullough-Stearns

Minor

Kabiriel